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KARNAK. See Page 240.

A

PILGRIMAGE TO EGYPT,

EMBRACING A DIARY OF

EXPLORATIONS ON THE NILE;

WITH OBSERVATIONS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE

MANNERS, CUSTOMS, AND INSTITUTIONS

OF THE PEOPLE,

AND OF THE

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND RUINS.

WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

BY J. V. C. SMITH, 1806-1879.
EDITOR OF THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON:
GOULD AND LINCOLN,
59 WASHINGTON STREET.
1852.

Stereotyped by
HOBART & ROBBINS;
NEW ENGLAND TYPE AND STEREOTYPE FOUNDERY,
BOSTON.

GEO. C. RAND, PRINTER, CORNHILL.

TO

MY SON,

EDWARD SUTTON SMITH,

THIS EPITOME

OF

Travels in Egypt

IS AFFECTIONATELY

DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

An essential part of this volume, which embraces extracts from a diary, has been detached from a manuscript on Palestine, soon to be published, because it relates particularly to Egypt, while the other refers to sections of Asia Minor. It was, therefore, thought advisable to separate them.

Minute antiquarian researches have not been introduced, from the circumstance that every work that has been written, of late, upon that extraordinary country, abounds with particular details in regard to length, breadth, and height. Facts of this nature have been laid aside by themselves, to be used when occasion may require.

Very many incidents might have been chronicled, of every-day occurrence, that were omitted, on account of their strangeness: they were so much at variance with the usages and customs of Christian communities, that it is only by personally seeing and hearing that they could be understood. The difference between the institutions of a Mohammedan country and our own is very striking. Rather than hazard the possibility of offending any one, by the recital of facts without parallel out of the regions where

they are common,—which would demonstrate the immediate necessity for hastening the universal diffusion of Christianity over those benighted regions, where moral darkness and despotism reign triumphantly,—nothing more has been recorded than commonly falls within the compass of a traveller's notes, collected especially for the gratification of a circle of friends.

A few typographical errors escaped detection till it was too late to correct them. Some repetitions exist, also, having their origin in writing every day's observations where each returning sun brought into view similar sights, and exhibitions of society.

Wherever drawings could be found that were better than those made by myself, they were unhesitatingly copied. Fashions always remain nearly the same in Egypt; and hence a true pictorial illustration, at any one period, explains the past, present and future, while the same race of men occupy the valley of the Nile.

J. V. C. SMITH.

BOSTON, March, 1852.

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A

PILGRIMAGE TO EGYPT.

PORT OF DEPARTURE FOR THE EAST.

If it is the intention of the tourist to enter Egypt or Syria, the point to sail from is Naples. A steamer may be taken, on the third and twentieth of each month, at Southampton, which goes from England to Alexandria, calling at Gibraltar and Malta, — constituting the overland line to India. The vessels are staunch, well found, and safe conveyances; but their route is a rough, tedious way, and far more expensive than it should be, besides being a monotonous one.

Taking the other or inland course, by first going to France, and finally sailing from Marseilles or Naples, some useful experience is acquired; and, separately from the gratification afforded by the contemplation of the works of art in that direction, there is actual economy in it. The only reason why the cost would be more by land than by sea would be through the filchings of American consuls, for a visé of a passport.

COST OF A VOYAGE FROM ENGLAND TO EGYPT.

It is precisely as much as the traveller chooses to make it. Under a rigid system of financiering, the expense will invariably exceed the original intention, and, perhaps, the traveller's expectations. Sometimes more is desired for a certain

amount of money than is realized; and, again, occasionally, more obtained than in strict justice should have been given. One thousand dollars is not too much to have at command for six months in the East.

THROUGH GERMANY,

By the Danube to Constantinople, is another route, occasionally taken by persons with whom time is of no account.

FROM MARSEILLES OR NAPLES.

If the traveller is indifferent in regard to Italy, and has no particular wish to go to Rome or Naples, he can take a boat for Malta from Marseilles, or sail directly to Corfu, the capital of the Ionian Islands, by way of Malta; or, on arriving at Malta, take a steamer for Alexandria. From England to Marseilles, even in pursuing a proper economy, will cost all of fifty-two dollars; and it may exceed that sum.

A French steamboat runs from Marseilles to Malta on the ninth of each month. The fare of a first-class passenger—that is, an occupant of the first and best cabin—is forty-five dollars, to which between two and three more may be added, for unforeseen contingencies. In the second cabin the expense is twenty-five dollars, not including meals.

At the close of the third day, or early on the fourth, the boat ordinarily arrives at Malta from Naples. By this route, it passes through the Straits of Messina, affording a charming view of the ancient city of Messina, and the coast and mountains of one part of the beautiful island of Sicily. The volcanoes of Etna and Stromboli may also be seen advantageously.

French steamboats are proverbially superior to the English, on account of the obliging character of the officers, on all the

lines running to Malta. There are other substantial reasons; the food is of a better quality, and served with regularity. As the days of sailing vary from one year to another, and new competing lines may rise into existence, it is rather difficult to determine precisely the day that a boat may depart. It is quite certain that a passage to Malta or Alexandria may be found readily from Marseilles.

FROM NAPLES.

That, on the whole, is the preferable place of departure. The boats are usually good, but the process to be passed through before it is possible to fairly get on board is vexatious in the extreme, and wholly arises from the jealousy of a despotic government, that watches every traveller, however peaceable or well-disposed, as vigilantly as though he were a desperado, or a military conqueror in disguise, who only sought an opportunity to subvert the empire, and victimize the royal family.

A passage cannot even be secured in a steamer, till the traveller presents his passport at the ticket-office, properly signed and sealed by the consul of the United States, who shamefully takes two dollars for the visé. Unless that is done, the local police-office will not give the applicant liberty to leave the city. There is evidently a proper understanding between all these officers, by which they sponge as much as possible out of all who fall within their lair. After obtaining all the signatures, and paying all the charges, if the agent of the boat sees no rebellion in the looks of the applicant, and no one objects to his exit from the city, he then goes to the pier, with the luggage. Lastly, he must enter the health-office there, have all his papers reëxamined, another visé added, a little money assessed, and permission is given to step into a row-boat; but

there a sturdy, impudent fellow insists upon having a fee, for he is a police guard, and becomes eloquent about his dues, his rights, &c. There is no obligation resting on the afflicted traveller to pay him a single farthing; and he is at liberty to cane the boatmen, — sometimes in collusion with them, — if they hesitate to push off for the steamer, lying at anchor.

The passport is retained at the health-office, where all the particulars are transcribed into a series of large folios, and a set of burly, consequential, cut-throat looking menials of the crown, are supported out of the purses of strangers. A more provoking and useless series of forms could not be devised, to excite the contempt and hatred of both natives and foreigners, than are now practised in Naples. It is not strange that the people are restive under a yoke that is constantly becoming more oppressive.

MALTA.

On reaching Malta, if the boat is compelled to go into quarantine, the detention and expenses incident to the execrable condition to which the voyager is suddenly reduced call forth a flood of useless indignation. Like all the health regulations on the Mediterranean, whether in France, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, or Greece, they have in view a direct revenue from strangers, under the specious pretence of guarding the public against the introduction of infectious diseases. It is an unrighteous and intolerable imposition, that ought not to be tolerated; and enlightened governments should negotiate with reference to breaking up a barrier to free commercial intercourse based on such very unphilosophical principles, if the powers enforcing them were honest in doing so. If there is any one act demanded of the only two free and truly civilized countries on earth, Great Britain and the United States, in their combined

capacity, it should be to put forth a declaration of uncompromising hostility to the disgraceful system of quarantine regulations now in operation at every port on that sea. Even on land, by enforcing the same abominable measures for extracting money, a solitary traveller on a camel, crossing the lonely desert of Arabia, is compelled to pass five days on a sand-hill, before he is allowed to proceed.

More than half the rigorous quarantines of Italy, and throughout the Turkish empire, are maintained in their present disgraceful form through the trickery of subtle Italian physicians, who would depopulate the world if they could gain a profitable salary for whatever they might do towards it. On most of the stations they are meddling, ignorant, double-faced men, who are apparently resolved to ruin commercial relations, and limit the intercourse of foreign states to their individual permission.

Whoever is obliged to abide a quarantine, although strictly a prisoner, guarded more closely than felons are watched, must support himself, and pay the person who furnishes supplies — usually a hotel-keeper at Malta, Alexandria, Beyroot, Smyrna, and the Piræus in Greece — whatever he pleases to charge. Not a chair, table, candle, or a single necessary convenience, is furnished by the government. There is a room, — miserable, and generally filthy, — into which we are ushered; and on the day of pratique, the room-rent is an enormous charge. The real and true object contemplated is to be paid before being liberated. At nearly all those black holes, there is a distinct sum assessed for the physician of the establishment, who is rarely ever seen; and, lastly, the guard, whose board is put into the bill, with a specific amount of wages by the day besides, has the impudence to ask for a present! There are all kinds of ragged attendants, like vermin, to suck the blood of the incarcerated stranger, who put in their claims for

compensation at the moment of making a final exit. In short, it is a legal mode of committing a robbery.

Contrary to the expectations raised by geographers, Malta is a massive strip of terra firma, stretching out full ten miles to the west of the ordinary landing at Valetta, the capital and focus of business, and not a small piece of rock, as has been represented, covered with soil brought from a distance. There is nothing like it on the globe, in respect to batteries, fortifications and guns, with their open mouths directly towards the shipping. The town is pleasant, well built, the houses high, and the streets clean, but rather narrow. They are up hill and down, in various directions; those towards the harbor being lined with shops, and pedlers of fruit, — cheap and good, — and priests, Roman Catholic processions of a showy character, and other sights that are peculiar to that island.

When we came into port, a physician — an Italian, of course — came alongside in a yawl, and demanded the bill of health from Naples. A tin box was handed up, into which it was placed, and returned. With an extraordinary show of precaution, the paper was taken out with brass tongs, read over with an air of concern, and, being found technically clean, away he went with it on shore. Malta had been awfully smitten by cholera just before our arrival, and no worse sickness than that they already suffered could be introduced. On returning, free consent was given to land forthwith, which probably grew out of the fact that it would be too glaring to quarantine a vessel in perfect health, and in that way absolutely expose the passengers to the hazard of contracting disease.

Everybody appeared delighted with this good luck, and especially the taverners, as it was the very first arrival for a considerable time, — all commerce being interrupted, no ship daring to touch while the malady was raging. Never

had I seen such a rabble as encircled us, before; screaming and hallooing in Arabic, English, French, Italian, and a mixed dialect, — a compound, perhaps, of all the others. They all wanted us to jump into their boats, and quarrelled fearfully among themselves for the possession of a customer. On landing at the foot of a flight of stairs leading to the entrance-gate, we were met by an army of porters, vociferous beyond endurance for the privilege of backing the trunks up a long flight of stone steps to the esplanade, where some of the hotels are located.

Although Malta is English property, and under the military control of a governor sent out by the British government, the Italian interest seems to prevail. It is an insufferably bigoted place, and all that could be ascertained of the dominant religious feelings disposed us to believe that a very large number of the priesthood would rejoice in the establishment of the inquisition. The churches — as in all purely Catholic countries — seem to be in perpetual requisition; women — constituting three-fourths, if not more, of the worshippers — were constantly going in and out.

St. Paul's Bay, where tradition says the apostle shook the serpent from his wrist, is about nine miles from Valetta. The roads are good, and the ride a pleasant one, on horseback or by carriage. It is questionable whether St. Paul ever saw the island. Evidences of the ancient occupancy of Malta by a race, and perhaps a succession of races, at a very remote epoch, are numerous. Mr. Winthrop, the American consul, has made researches that have already created a sensation among archæologists. How the ancient inhabitants found the island, in what age of the world, or what became of the builders of the catacombs, remains open for discussion. There are two hospitals, reading-rooms, a show palace of the grand mas-

ter of the expelled knights, a very formidable garrison, officers in abundance, balls, amateur theatricals, concerts, band-serenades, and other amusements.

The carriages usually seen in the streets are the *ne plus ultra* of awkwardness. They are huge one-horse chaises, the thills being a third too long, with the ends fastened nearly on a level with the horse's back. A driver leads the animal by the bit, or walks by his side, guiding him by long reins. In that manner ladies take an airing.

Sunday is observed very much as in the Catholic countries of Europe; the shops, markets, &c., being open as usual, and pedlers and hawkers crying their wares. At noon, a little more reserve is manifested than in Rome. An English influence seems to reign in the afternoon.

PERIOD FOR VISITING EGYPT.

On no account presume to enter Egypt in the summer. From the latter part of October to the first of January is a decidedly favorable period. The weather is not hot beyond endurance within that range of time; cool breezes from the north blow up the Nile, and if a design is entertained of ascending that river, reliance can be placed on a daily trade-wind, that rarely fails, for more than a single day, to exert its force in that direction, south, for several months in succession. With the return of spring, the wind shifts, and blows from the south, with equal certainty. If the route is taken from the north, and the traveller first explores Syria before arriving in Egypt, — which, on the whole, is the preferable way, — he should reach Constantinople or Beyroot about the middle of September, which will allow sufficient opportunity for a jaunt through Palestine, — reaching Cairo by the way of Ramlah, through

the desert. In commencing a line of travel at this point, the explorations would be completed before the annual rains set in, which are violent, cold, and uncomfortable to endure. The streams are frequently swollen so that they cannot be forded with safety, at that season. As it rarely rains in Egypt, above Alexandria, in the winter, no interruptions by bad weather are to be anticipated.

On the other hand, if, after finishing a tour in Egypt, the traveller arrive in the midst of the rains at Jerusalem, there must necessarily be a loss of time by delays for clear sky, a larger bill of expenses for an outfit, and a higher rate would be demanded for the use of horses or camels.

No apprehension need be indulged with reference to the prevalence of diseases. If plague is not developed, there is no fear whatever from the existence of other maladies, which are not essentially different from those of temperate Europe, or the northern United States of America. Egypt is ordinarily as free from infectious distempers as the most favored towns of New England. Fevers, rheumatism, and slight cutaneous eruptions, are found in about the same ratio. Ophthalmia, the most to be dreaded of all the Nilotic disorders, is unquestionably produced, sporadically, through the neglect and excessive filthy habits of those who are the greatest sufferers by it. A want of personal cleanliness invites the activity of flies, which, in a majority of cases that came under my observation, had been the medium of propagating the painful affection from one to another.

The common custom of eating, sleeping, and dressing each returning morning, as practised at home, should not be departed from; but regularity, simplicity of diet, and an unruffled temper, are pillars that will sustain a traveller, in ordinary health, through all the varying scenes of climate to be encountered

throughout the length and breadth of Egypt and Asia Minor. If a person happen to be slightly indisposed, he should not instantly resort to medicine. Should a dysenteric attack result from a too free indulgence of rich fruits on first arriving, a timely dose of pulverized rhubarb — from five to ten grains — may subdue it.

Trusting to the recuperative efforts of nature in Egypt, unless there should be an uncommon manifestation of disturbance in the system, is far preferable to weakening one's powers suddenly, in a debilitating atmosphere, by depleting articles. Eat and drink precisely as you have been accustomed, and give yourself neither thought nor concern about what is safe and proper in dietetics, — since a restless, nervous anxiety generates ails, without a corresponding power to control them.

Carry neither provisions, wines, nor confectionary; nor, indeed, should the traveller burden himself unnecessarily with any luggage not positively necessary. Frequent changes of linen are conducive to stability of health; and any neglect of that kind will be severely visited on the delinquent, in some parts of Egypt, by the annoyance of vermin.

We arrived at Alexandria on the first day of November, from Malta, when the cholera had begun to wane; yet strangers were greatly in fear of its pestilential influence. No regard was paid to it, whatever, by us. My habits of life being regular and temperate, — neither using spirit or tobacco, — no apprehensions were entertained. My course was marked out methodically, for an extensive exploration of the architectural antiquities of the valley of the Nile, and my health was perfectly good while I remained. At the expiration of three months, living on the ordinary food and fruits of the country, my condition was excellent.

ALEXANDRIA.

On the first day of November, 1850, we came into the port of this very ancient city. The run from Malta was tolerably pleasant, and the incidents few. One day a little owl made its appearance in the rigging, when the nearest land was

ALEXANDRIA.
N. Lat. 31° 13′. E. Long. 25° 53′. Was founded 332 years before Christ.

presumed to be some hundred miles. From Naples to Malta, the Mediterranean was in such commotion, that a perpetual sea-sickness was induced; but the nine hundred miles from Malta to Alexandria was a comfortable voyage. Squalls come up suddenly on that sea, and rage terrifically, later in the season.

A November sun is intensely hot in the middle of the day, on deck, the whole of the way. Acid fruits, particularly oranges and pomegranates are grateful, and were abundantly served to the passengers.

The board is a distinct charge in the Mediterranean steamers, while the passage is another, and the service of each and all the waiters still another. It is, therefore, more expensive travelling in any line of steamboats on the Mediterranean than by the same conveyances either in England or America.

Early in the evening of the day before going up to the anchorage ground, the light was discovered, — about the only one that side of a vast length of coast, from Egypt to the Black Sea. The water being rather shallow, and a mass of loose rocks lying in the middle of the narrow channel, we laid off and on, outside, till eight o'clock the following morning. As we neared the land, a light row-boat played about in the neighborhood, within hailing distance, with a crew of Arab pilots. The red caps worn by some, the turbans by others, with the peculiar costume of the country, now for the first time seen, were objects of special interest and amusement.

As the pilot did not attempt coming on board, it was rightly surmised we were threatened with a quarantine detention, at the worse than stable accommodations of the lazaretto. When the anchor fell in the beautiful basin, some of the finest ships-of-war afloat, belonging to the Egyptian government, fully manned and equipped, were by our side. I have since been in very many of the harbors under the control of the Turks, but none of them equal this. Near the margin of the spacious basin, facing towards the sea, at the extremity of a point of land, is a tall, well-constructed light-house. Close to the water's edge, looking immediately towards the harbor, is the palace of the late Mohammed Ali; a little west of it, on an

elevation, the harem of his late terrible highness, which is a large wooden structure, painted white, of two stories. The upper, being expressly the residence of the ladies, has latticed windows. Those within can peep out, while those without cannot peep in. The gardens and grounds are kept in a tolerably verdant state, by constant irrigation. A mighty rabble of boatmen, in all imaginable garments, white, red and blue, — all smoking, — kept up a deafening shout in Italian and Arabic, to engage passengers for the shore.

In the mean time, a yellow flag had been hoisted at the end of the bowsprit, and we were hard and fast in quarantine. An Italian physician took the certificate of health with tongs, precisely as it was done at Malta, and soon after pushed for the landing. Word was speedily brought that a detention of five days had been decreed. Tabooed as we were, with little or no provision on board, a feeling of indignation was at once exhibited in every countenance. Every one was in health, and yet, forsooth, the doctor was for rigorously enforcing his orders, because we had touched at Malta! Notes were addressed to the different consuls, and there were merchants and others sufficiently interested in the cargo and those confined to the boat to make a loud demand at the pratique office for the liberation of the steamer. The rascally Italian fought, against all remonstrances, for the maintenance of his official authority; while it was argued that nothing could be more ridiculously absurd, as the cholera was in the city, and those who had just arrived must be endangered by it, while the inhabitants could have nothing to apprehend from well men. The doctor was eventually overpowered; and the next day, at noon, after a useless detention of one day and one night, we were liberated. A rapid sputtering about Abbas Pasha was often recognized. Perhaps the mischief-making doctor might have threatened the dis-

pleasure of his fat master, or was disappointed at not pocketing a fee for letting us out of durance; for I subsequently learned that any favor could be purchased in Egypt, from the viceroy down to a camel-driver. Even a decision of an important case in law may be had according to the ability of the contending parties to pay the judge.

When pratique was given, a fearful rush of wild, swarthy men, in bag-breeches, bare legs, red shoes, red caps, and blue laced tight-fitting jackets, or no jackets, sprang for the gangway of the Luxor, the name of the boat. Previously, we had been kept in supposed subjection by two ragged, dirty Arabs, who authoritatively sauntered about the decks, with long sticks, to observe and preserve — for they probably stole their living. They were guards put on the steps by the doctor when the yellow flag was raised.

Exterior to the circle of jabbering boatmen, there were several dragomen, looking out for engagements to accompany travellers who intended to proceed to Cairo, or beyond.

At Malta there are numbers of professed dragomen, who become tediously importunate for engagements. They quite smother one with their recommendations and self-praised qualifications, — declaring they not only understand every inch of Egypt and Syria, and speak as many languages as were spoken at the uproar of tongues when Babel was confused, but they endeavor to make it appear that it is all-important to take a dragoman whenever an opportunity presents. Remember not to take one from Malta, because the expense of transporting him to Alexandria, nine hundred miles, is a considerable item. At Alexandria, dragomen are very abundant, and no difficulty was ever found in obtaining one when wanted.

One man cried out that he was the dragoman of *Dr. Stephens*, the author of Incidents of Travels; another said he had been

with Sir Gardner Wilkinson, when he was making explorations for his great work on the Antiquities of Egypt; while others, equally earnest for a customer among some of the howadjis, — which word means gentlemen, — presented equally strong claims to patronage.

Finally, we stepped into a boat; but the pulling and hauling of our trunks by contending parties, and the rapidity and severity of the blows they gave each other, made it clear that we were in a land of blows. By joining, to some extent, in the general turmoil, with a cane, which a volunteer Arab, who subsequently was taken into service, plied most lustily, we ultimately seated ourselves quietly on a mound of luggage, and even struck the landing, to encounter still more extraordinary excitements, with quite a different race of human beings, the donkey-drivers.

A palace in one direction; hundreds of mud hovels in others; minarets of mosques in the distance; beautiful ships-of-war, with silken banners flying at the mizzen peaks; old hulls of decaying frigates; the glare of the sun's rays on the bare, heated sand; with the hum of voices, and the slow pace of long lines of camels, — were novelties of no every-day occurrence.

It was a lovely day on which we left the water for the land. Soft breezes from the ruffled waves were refreshing, and seemed to promote the happiness of every one but the Italian doctor, whose face betrayed his stifled anger at being outwitted by those who interfered with his administration. Although suffering from political oppression in their own despotically governed country, Italians no sooner have an opportunity to exercise their innate propensities, than they become even worse than those from whose oppression they escape.

By the tattling volubility of the crowd, it was evident that

the arrival of a few foreign passengers gives activity to business, and each was hoping to profit by the movement.

Before we had fairly stepped out of the boat, an immense rabble of carriers, pedlers, idlers, and donkey-drivers, backing their little stubborn brutes plump into our faces, beset us at every come-atable point. One urged the good qualities of his saddle; another declared it was too far to walk up town; and a hundred more were shouting, screaming, and bellowing, in broken English, all kinds of information, which was of no earthly importance. While this confusion was at its height, our luggage was borne off to the custom-house for examination. A small fee was paid to the faithful inspectors, who never troubled themselves to look an inch beyond the stratum at the top. The first lesson was here learned, that no officer of the government, in the East, is beyond the magical influence of a bribe. From the man nearest to the throne to a mendicant in the street, backshiesh — meaning a present — is all-powerful. An Arab or a Turk will serve the devil as readily as Allah or the Grand Sultan, if he is paid his price.

Every requisition being complied with,— the pasha's inspecting revenue officers bribed to let us pass, — knowing every delay would be made in the examination if we did not put a few piastres into their hands, although there was not a single dutiable or contraband article in our possession, a bevy of contending half-naked Arab boys lashed our trunks, bags, coats, and travelling gear, to the sides of the donkeys, so that the poor little things were almost concealed by their loads, and away we sped to the consular square, the focus of civilization, hotels, and paper lanterns. Should the traveller be on his route to India, he would not be subjected to these annoyances, as the overland transit company take charge of his effects, which are merely transferred to camels, or in part to a long

flat on carriage-wheels, starting from the square, conveying the whole to a small steamer at the mouth of the canal that reaches to the Nile.

It is not my intention to enter upon a detail of the past history or condition of any place. The historian has already accomplished that, and anticipated whatever might be written of the past glories, civil, martial, and religious greatness, of this and all the countries and territories on this old theatre of humanity. My object is to relate the every-day scenes, and sights, and occurrences, as they were presented from time to time, while exploring the antiquities of Egypt.

Among the number who were determined to be our dragoman, — that is, interpreter, — was Hassan, a sprightly-looking, dressy, intelligent Nubian, of about six-and-thirty, who manfully kept the gathering rabble from devouring us. To his course of discipline they readily submitted. He swept a heavy stick right and left, and belabored some of the miserable bronze-colored wretches right merrily, without being rattaned in return. They bear blows with the indifference of a rhinoceros; nor, in a single instance, were any of those most cudgelled noticed to manifest very marked retaliatory measures.

Hassan was the pink of an Egyptian dandy, being fancifully embroidered down every seam in his back, — wearing immense Grecian petticoat-breeches, long white stockings held up by red garters, red morocco shoes, a calico sort of shirt-bosom, — probably without a body, — a red cap, swayed to one side, jauntingly, with a heavy blue silk tassel. In his mouth was a long pipe. Others were earnest to be taken into service, — natives of Malta, Cairo, Alexandria, Beyroot, and Philæ, beyond the first cataract.

Lodgings having been procured, a general survey of the town was commenced. It is a walled city, and embraces within its

mural enclosure space enough for three times the present population,— assumed to be one hundred thousand. One large open space — long in one direction and narrower in the other — is called the consular square, because the foreign consuls occupy the principal buildings, or, rather, have offices around the place. On the roofs are flag-staffs, at the extremities of which flags of the various nations of Europe, and that of the United States, are uniformly flying on the Sabbath. On other days they rarely raise them, unless there is some especial occasion. On our arrival, all the flags were at half-mast several successive days, in compliment to the Belgian consul, — the Queen of Belgium having recently died. When intelligence of the melancholy death of General Taylor was received, all the flags were lowered half-mast, out of civility to the American consul.

All the streets leading out of the square, in whatever direction, are quite wide, level, and well made; but unparalleled for fine dust, that sticks to a coat, hat and shoes, like dry flour. Towards the canal, and in the direction of the palace, they are bordered by acacias, of the size of ordinary apple-trees, which are necessarily watered very frequently, or they would die. The ground is excavated, round the roots of most of them, in the form of a deep cup, into which a mud trench, or a raised mud canal, carries the vitalizing fluid, previously raised by a wheel, hereafter to be explained.

The city of Alexandria, thus laid out by cutting through whatever happened to be in the line of the proposed streets, houses, mounds of rubbish, or division fences, had alike to give way to the energy of that very remarkable man, Mohammed Ali. The elements, therefore, of a large commercial city are there; and it is quite safe to predict that it is destined, hereafter,

as it once was, to be the capital of Egypt. There is not another port to be compared with it on that coast.

A lady told me that she used to see the "*good old man* ride out two or three times a day, when the trees, now magnificent, were first set out, to see if the workmen did the business faithfully." Beyond the wall, going south-easterly, are mounds upon mounds, and rubbish, that has accumulated into large respectable hills, — some, indeed, of enormous size. For miles in the distance, the surface of the ground, even to a very considerable depth, seems to be a mixture of hewn stones, fragments of columns, broken bricks, bits of brown pottery, and other miscellaneous refuse and waste materials of unrecorded generations, who have occupied these striking localities. A deep trench was dug round the wall at the south-eastern gate, which leads into the country: that presents, even to its bottom, the same fragmentary indications of the upper stratum, being made up, in and about the whole of Alexandria, of the cast-off rubbish of ages. It is one of the sights that excites emotions of surprise, to stroll over the now forsaken bare fields, thrown into irregular forms by the agency of hands that may have been resting from labor, in the mummy-pits, for four thousand years.

Within the city boundaries, which embrace some of the broad-based eminences of the remote age of Alexander the Great, who converted the fishing town of Racotis into a magnificent city, products of the same character, which are brought out, by excavations, at a distance of one or two miles, are easily discovered. I have seen people at work for brick, some in pursuit of hammered stone, and others, perhaps, were desirous of a granite column, — all of which seem to abound, in the greatest abundance, in those enormous magazines of ruins.

Tradition fixes upon a broad swell, which is passed on the

way to the canal, near Pompey's Pillar, as the site of the famed Alexandrian library. At the old harbor, the masonry of which is a startling exhibition of the tact of the old Egyptian masons, stands Cleopatra's Needle, a red granite obelisk, seventy feet high, in a single piece, and seven feet seven inches square at the base. The foundation on which it stands is constituted of different-sized stones, the top of which — six feet or more below the present land level of the neighborhood — shows how great the accumulation must have been, to have raised an extensive region so much above the original position. Some one has thoughtfully dug away the earth, exposing the bottom end of the column. I noticed that the lower extremity was not cut off at right angles, and, consequently, it did not set squarely down upon the foundation. A copper prop, over a foot long, and six inches in diameter, was set endwise under one corner, that appeared to have been knocked with a sledge, to raise the shaft to a perpendicular. A few rods west of this lonely sculptured monolith is its fallen mate, that must have once, and perhaps for centuries, been covered up in the earth, entirely out of sight. Its length is sixty-six feet, and it is covered with symbolical hieroglyphical characters. It was presented to the British government by Mohammed Ali; but it was too massive to move, and there it may lie, foundered, like a leviathan, with no prospect of ever being raised again. Both of these obelisks originally stood at Heliopolis, where Moses is presumed to have been educated. At three-quarters of a mile distant is that splendid gray granite shaft, called Pompey's Pillar, ninety-eight feet nine inches high, including the fixtures. The real single column is seventy-three in height, and the circumference twenty-nine feet eight inches,— originally polished like glass. It stands on a bare, barren eminence, with nothing about it to indicate the splendor that historical records declare existed over an extensive

field, where there is now nothing but desolation. A group of dark Arab girls had broken off large bits from the bold round moulding at the base, by climbing near ten feet to where the pillar rests on the sub-structure, which they offered to sell,—even begging hard to have us purchase. Finding that we manifested no enthusiasm, or willingness to buy, they threw them away, and then scampered back to their hovels with the fleetness of gazelles, their eyes being quite as wild, black, and sparkling. On one occasion, we rode several miles south-west, to examine the ancient tombs, or catacombs, cut into friable limestone rock, on the margin of the sea. They are extensive cuttings, into the form of large rooms, one beyond the other. The water has encroached upon them, rending the walls of some, and crushing in parts of others. With a candle, we crept into many a dark, gloomy apartment, that may have been stored with the mummied remains of priests, philosophers, and nobles, a dozen times over, since they were formed. Neptune, however, is constantly warring against these ancient receptacles of the dead; and by and by, with the assistance of the sand, the decomposition of the stone, and the combined action of an allied force of wind and waves, they will be wholly obliterated. As works of art, they are not remarkable; but as specimens of patient industry, they are extraordinary, and worthy of exploration.

On the day of our arrival in the harbor of Alexandria,—Friday,—no business could be transacted with the functionaries of government in regard to a liberation from quarantine, because it was the Mussulman Sabbath. The day following,—Saturday,—when the steamer was liberated, no business could be done with the Jew bankers, because it was their Sabbath; and, on the third day, nothing could be transacted with the

Christians, as it was their Sabbath. This was, indeed, a singular circumstance, — three Sabbaths in succession.

All the streets are, as before observed, exceedingly dusty. Towards the palace, an occasional Arab, with a monster turban, bare-legged, bearing a skin of water — when full, having the appearance of a living animal — slung over his shoulders, was seen whisking a little feeble streamlet from the aperture. This was a primitive way of watering a street; and not of much service, since it dried up nearly as fast as he let it out by loosening the string.

Squadrons of donkeys stand saddled, for hire, at the port landing, in the consular square, and at other centres. The saddles are easy, but awkward in construction, — the pommel being quite a tumulus, a foot broad, and half that high. When one is mounted, a driver runs in the rear, belaboring the poor quadruped every moment of time; — when the cudgel stops, his feet stop also. Some of the drivers have sail-needles, with which they give a dab in the shoulder, every few rods. The blood sometimes trickles down the fore-leg in consequence. I used to wonder how my fingers became bloody, till the secret of increasing their speed was discovered.

The mosques being open, devout Mussulmans are seen going out and in, leisurely, at all hours; but on Friday, especially, there was a larger current than usual towards the doors. No secular employments, however, are ever interrupted on mosque-day, by the faithful. After saying their prayers, — of which some curious particulars may be related in the course of this narrative, — they return to their occupations. An elevated class of pious men — chiefly such as hold positions under government — assume a more solemn aspect; and, if a salary is going on, cannot, in conscience, discharge any public duties on that sanctified day.

A large and fully-attended Roman Catholic church, embracing a generous amount of land, a short distance from the consular square, indicates a thrifty state of its funds. French, Italians and Spaniards, — in short, all Catholics, come from wherever they may, — rally at its many altars. The church is large, has a bell, and bright and early on Sunday morning the flag of his holiness of Rome is raised. An Episcopal church is squeezed into small quarters. A pretty stone edifice, on the square, was going up slowly, while we were there. All the stone were of a soft, mealy, porous sort of limestone, brought from Malta.

There are two post-offices. One belongs to the government, and was kept in a dark apartment under my lodgings. A mail comes down on horseback from Cairo, and another returns daily. Some idea may be formed of the native correspondence between the two great cities of Egypt, Alexandria and Cairo, by the fact, that each day's accumulation of letters from all sources makes a package easily transported in that manner. About nine o'clock in the morning, Franks and natives begin to cluster about the door. When the contents of the bag are assorted, the window opens for delivery. Postage is dear. My impression is that the cost of a single letter to Cairo was not far from eighteen cents.

All papers, letters and packages, destined for Europe or America, must be prepaid at the transit company's post-office, at the easterly terminus of the square.

In walking or riding, men, women, slaves and children, are met, in all sorts of queer garments, the representatives of diversified nations; — Arabs in turbans and tarbousches, bare legs, either barefooted or in red shoes; Jews, portly, sore-eyed, but sleek, as their tongues are oily in the exchange of money; Africans, black, tall, and lank; Levantine females, veiled, and

in soft yellow morocco boots, stuck into long, peaked-toed yellow slippers; Nubians, with comely features, but black as jet; and intermixtures of all shades between coal-black and milk-white. Numbers of Arab women, with only a single garment, — a long blue cotton shirt, with wide dangling sleeves, the bosom split half down the waist, exposing their persons, — though cautiously concealing their faces with any quality of a veil they may have, are perpetually on the move, carrying stone pots, baskets, and whatever is to be carried, on their heads. An instinctive sense of propriety prompts them to cover their faces, while the remainder of their flabby, bronzed bodies are not regarded with indications of concern. They are seen driving herds of milch goats, with their pendulous udders secured in a bag, tied over their backs, to prevent the kids from nursing. They sell bread, also, and other eatables; but, as a body, those of this order idle away a majority of their days by squatting round the shady sides of their mud hovels, raising poultry, doves, and fussing about their unstomachable children, of which they are usually prolific. No female servants are known in the hotels of Alexandria, — two or three of which have been organized since the establishment of the overland mail line, through Egypt, to India, — kept extremely well, by Italians. Arab male-servants, principally, do all the indoor service, — even to making beds, and all that pertains to chamber-work. There is not much difference in expense between these hotels and those of New York and Boston.

When night sets in, Alexandria is a gloomy place, — not being lighted. If a person goes beyond the door, he carries a lantern. In looking from the window, a few faint lights may be discovered flitting across the square; but by nine o'clock they nearly all disappear. Arabs and Turks, like birds, retire when the curtain of the heavens shuts out the light; but in

early rising they have no superiors. They have no evening amusements beyond a pipe, nor a thought which disturbs them of the past, or a hope that is not to be realized, they believe, in the future. The slave-market, on one side of the town, is a small court, surrounded by shabby old buildings, — a row of half sheds, half houses, — with doors opening into the area. The street entrance, under a rickety arch, closed by a gate, stood ajar, and in we sauntered. Perhaps there were twenty negresses, nine years old, and two who might be eighteen. They covered their nakedness by a grimy cotton sheet, held together by their fingers; while their wire-twisted wool — for they were all from Dongola, where they were stolen — was profusely decorated with small coins and brass trinkets. They hovered about us, as though they were to be examined; while their masters — tall, spare Nubians, black as they were, but with regular, fine features — stood by to ask for backshiesh. A few piastres were given them, and we retired, to dwell upon the horrors of their pitiable condition. They were children in stature, and certainly so in intellect. Two only, of the whole, were any way interesting in their expression, or cleanly; but they were mostly in robust health.

Europeans have introduced a few amusements, but not of a very elevated or improving character. A small Italian theatre is occasionally in operation. Some stray, second-rate, straggling singer occasionally advertises a concert; and, in addition to those, a series of low, disreputable balls, or evening dances, are poorly sustained by the curiosity of strangers who find no resources in the antiquities and historical associations of the past, on a spot so memorable in the transactions of the world. In these recreations, neither Turks, who hold all places of trust, nor Arabs, who are crushed politically, and ruled by the fear of a bastinado, participate.

All the houses and shops are beginning to have a civilized appearance; and those occupied by the various consuls, bankers, and principal European merchants, are as elegant, comfortable, and well-furnished, as the best class of dwellings in other countries. In the bazaars, a taint of the old customs is recognized. The native shopkeepers sit flat on the floor in pursuing their book-keeping and money-changing, waiting upon customers by reaching their goods, in the little stalls in which many of them are located, hardly five feet square. Mechanics are seated at their anvils, on the floor; as also the shoemakers, tinmen, cabinet-makers, &c. &c., even down to turners at a lathe, — these last holding the chisel's point to the stick with the toes, the handle being in the left hand, while in the right is the bow, see-sawing whatever is to be turned, first backward and then forward. I was surprised at the nicety of the pipe-stems thus manufactured. Even large blocks, the diameter of four inches, similar to mahogany bedstead-posts, were beautifully turned in a bow-lathe in that awkward manner.

We went to the palace raised by the talismanic behest of the greatest man Egypt has had in modern times, the late Mohammed Ali. It was the fabrication of French architects. Some of the state apartments were superb, large, and lofty. Floor beyond floor even surpassed very many of the best I have seen in the royal residences of Europe. One, in particular, was inlaid with black ebony, polished to vie with a mirror. Most of the drapery was entirely French in taste and material; and the chairs, a billiard-table, chandeliers, and other appurtenances of elegance, made it evident that they had been selected by some one who had good taste and a full purse. Neither pictures nor statuary were there. Fat cushions, to be dropped about the floor, for lolling or sleeping, were piled up in a cor-

ner; and a wide divan — a bench, not dissimilar to a tailor's work-table — extended across the end of one pretty room, for sleeping. There was one bedstead, but we were informed that his late highness always preferred the floor. Immense looking-glasses had been up, but were now packed in boxes, to be removed, by order of the reigning pasha. Some boxes of new furniture, just arrived, were in the basement. The grounds were prettily cultivated, for Egypt, yet there was a stiffness and sameness in the plants. Of course, no one was allowed to pass on to the next enclosure, — the mysterious harem, — where three-and-twenty widows of one man, the defunct regenerator and Napoleon of the land of the Pharaohs, were immured in a fairy cell, where the customs of society require they shall remain to the day of death.

Alexandria is a well-regulated, securely-governed city. With a population presumed to be one hundred thousand, there is neither a mayor, aldermen, common council, assessors, a treasurer, overseers of the poor, an almshouse, penitentiary, or house of correction. There is a lock-up, equivalent to a jail; but the demand for more spacious accommodations has not been made on account of the increase of crime.

There are two courts, special in their character, and extensive in jurisdiction. A military officer — a colonel — presided over the first, seated cross-legged on a cushion; on the left of whom were two portly, smoking, sedate Turks, who were said to be assistants. The other, — the court of the kadi, — like the kadi at Cairo, receives his appointment from the sultan, and is sent from Constantinople. Foreign offenders are given over to the consuls of their respective governments, who send them home for trial. The presiding police justice apparently takes cognizance of every want of the citizens, as well as their delinquencies. If a favor is asked of the government, he is

first addressed. A military governor writes to Cairo for liberty to do this or that, by way of improvement or necessity, in the city. The minister of the home department grants it or not, perhaps in accordance with the will of the pasha, who is absolute in every respect, even to the minutest details of agriculture, the arts, and the personal liberty of his subjects. Whatever is expended for public purposes comes out of the public treasury; and that is kept in a plethoric condition by imposts and direct taxation. Soldiers are quartered about the city, — considerable numbers being in barracks, — and at the police-stations, for police duties devolve upon them. At night the watch is numerous, men being within hail of each other over the whole territory of the city. One of them halloos with all his strength, about every half-hour, in the consular square; and the next imitates him, and thus the noise is propagated quickly over the whole of the city. It is excessively annoying, and is probably required of the soldiers to keep them from sleeping at their posts. This night uproar of the police is the worst nuisance to be met with in Alexandria. The system of management in the schools, the punishments, the crimes characteristic of the mixed population, and the manner of conducting suits at law, will be considered hereafter.

I made many visits to the canal, the liveliest district in the city, where boats are constantly arriving from the upper Nile, laden with produce, manufactures and passengers, from Nubia, Abyssinia, and still more distant regions beyond.

One week is a sufficiently short time to become initiated into the new phases of humanity in a professedly unchristian country. A tour at the public granaries, where a continuous stream is pouring in from the top of the roof; the cargoes of beans, corn, millet, and wheat, that are coming out at the door, and conveyed on a track of railroad, — the only one

in Egypt, — ten rods in length, to the end of a pier; the call to prayers from the minarets; the barking of dogs, from sunset to sunrise, and the general movement of the social machinery; the strangeness of the turbans; the slow trains of camels, with noiseless feet; the hum of activity, the variety of dialects, and the novelty of being in Africa, — a country the most marvellous in its history, the most extraordinary in its antiquities, and the most anomalous in its present organization, — is well calculated to keep up an excitement which no scenes or sights in Europe, with all the veneration they receive, could produce.

LEAVING ALEXANDRIA FOR CAIRO.

There are three modes of reaching the present capital of Egypt: namely, going out to sea, and turning up the Damietta or Rosetta branches of the Nile; by land, on horseback, — a tedious, profitless jaunt; or by the canal, forty miles in length, which opens into the Nile at Atfeh, a miserable, dirty Arab town. If the traveller does not go to Cairo in the transit company's steamer, which runs through the canal, it is necessary to hire a river-boat, always lying in the canal, waiting for jobs.

Before closing a bargain, look cautiously, to ascertain whether the boat is free from vermin, rats and snakes. In general, one-third of the stipulated price is paid down, and the remainder at the termination of the trip. The bargain must be written, and the reis, or captain, made to sign it with his seal, in duplicate, each taking a copy, for none of them can read or write. All the provisions for daily use must be put on board, together with pans, kettles, earthen pots, cooking apparatus, cots, blankets, sugar, coffee, &c.; and a regular house-keeping commences

the moment the sail is up. There are dragomen in abundance, who contract to go for a daily specific sum, or by the month, to be gone as long as desired, — even into Nubia, back across the desert, into Palestine, Turkey or Persia. They are up for a market, without reference to place or length of the undertaking. This is somewhat expensive; but when two or three gentlemen unite in all the expenses, it very materially lightens the expense of each. It is best not to contract for the boat further than Cairo; thus an opportunity for testing the boat and crew is secured. A contract must mention particularly the number of the crew, and that they are to row or tow the boat, when the wind fails, a certain number of hours daily.

Through our dragoman, Hassan, a boat was taken into service, and an agreement made with Reis Abuzed, — a short, thick-set, black, flowing-bearded, respectable-appearing Arab, — his ten men and a boy, to take us to Cairo. He came to our lodgings — near four miles — to talk and smoke the subject over; and we returned the visit, by going to the canal to view the boat. It had two small rooms on the deck, a wooden divan to put beds on, and a box to kindle a charcoal fire in, forward, when any cooking was to be done. He brought down a colonel of the army, and his harem, a week or so before. Dividing ourselves into three divisions, we forthwith commenced shopping, to fit up our establishment.

Having met the Rev. Mr. Holland and Mr. H. A. Warren, from Boston, at Rome, and subsequently at Naples, an arrangement was agreed upon, by which we could travel in the East together. For mutual comfort, security and economy, it proved to be an agreeable acquaintance; and it gives me pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to them for many a pleasant day we passed together on the river Nile, and in exploring

LADIES RIDING. Page 83.

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FEMALES DRESSED FOR WALKING OR RIDING. Page 34.

useless expenditure;—and future visiters can do as they like about feeing the American consul-general for worthless papers, recollecting that he has a fixed salary of three thousand dollars a year from Washington. Well, on we went, single file, passing near Pompey's Pillar. Mr. Warren carried a bag of copper paras, nearly a peck in measure, but of small value. I went in advance, while Mr. Holland acted as supervisor and look-out agent for the safety of the goods and chattels.

Being considerably in advance through the gate, and observing a detention, I became anxious, and retraced a few rods, to ascertain the difficulty. The sentinels had brought the donkeys to for examination. They laughed at the consul's paper, and were equally indifferent to the sputtering importance of his man of straw with the pistols. A bribe was paid, and the loads came on. But next, our official blusterer demanded pay. He was indignant at the sum given, and departed in high dudgeon. Neither his services or his master's had been of the least importance, while for each act of both was a charge. This is a specimen of the beginning with American consuls in the Orient. No one is ever satisfied in Egypt. Give all that has been stipulated, and some are angry because there is no more.

When all the trumpery had been put on board and stowed, lo! Hassan had not arrived. We were therefore compelled to make the best of the disappointment, and retire to our new lodgings for the night. The evening was excessively dark; but, hearing low, earnest voices, not unlike praying, a few rods distant, in a one-story house, in which a faint lamp-light was glimmering through the crevices, I ventured near, to watch the movements within. A few pious Arabs, in a state of exaltation by smoking either strong tobacco or hemp, were making a humming wail, bowing and groaning inwardly, with an expression of sanctity not very unlike what is sometimes wit-

nessed in Methodist meetings. No females participated in the devotions, if such they were.

Bright and early the following morning, Hassan made his appearance, in full travelling gear, accompanied by a boy of fourteen, Ali, who was to be his assistant. He also brought a bright little lad of eight years, his son, of whom he was excessively fond. He regretted that the child had not been circumcised, — an essential rite of his fathers, which no conscientious follower of the prophet ever neglected; — but he had been much from home, and could not attend to it. As it would cost considerable to feast his circle of friends, whenever performed, he was impatiently waiting to collect a sufficient sum to defray the expense. Hassan asked for money to send back to his family, which was advanced. In the midst of pushing off from the bank, up rode a fine, spirited fellow, on a smoking donkey, who demanded the clothes of Ali. He was his brother, and objected to his taking his best breeches to the Thebiad. These were composed of a big white cotton bag, open at both ends, held up over the hips by a string, and reaching down to the knees. A silk scarf was bound several times round the body, and a calico shirt-bosom, or vest, — I never could fairly ascertain which, — buttoned to the throat, with little round pea-buttons, completed the dress. We vetoed any such proceedings; if the boy was to go with us, he should be decently clad, and no threats would change our purpose. The man said, their father being dead, it was his duty to act parentally; he only desired to keep the clothing till our safe return. A contest of words ensued, but Hassan contrived to settle the matter satisfactorily, and the boy, being relieved from the apprehension of losing his nether garment, became cheerful and active.

Up came the pin in the bank that held the boat, the sail was

set, and soon we felt as fine a breeze as though it had been bespoken especially for the occasion. It came nearly astern, and strongly, so that the canjia ploughed through the canal at a rapid rate.

By taking a position on the top of the cabin, some seven feet above the water, where we could climb by making two long strides, — the weather being clear, warm and inviting, — we obtained a view of both sides of the canal, which was very interesting, from the variety of new sights perpetually coming into view. Lake Mareotis — described by Strabo, which Pliny says was thirty miles long — was on the right hand, — a broad sheet of water. Houses and huts, on either side, were frequently passed, near the banks, into which we could peep a little way, but without discovering anything of a remarkable character in the domestic arrangements.

The canal was named by its projector the Mahmoodéeh, in honor of the Sultan of Turkey, Mahmoud II., who was on the throne when Mohammed Ali completed it. It was dug and opened in about one year, by the constant labor of two hundred and fifty thousand men, twenty thousand of whom were supposed to have died by being overtasked, and by accidents and disease. It is wide enough, in many places, for half a dozen boats to pass, without molestation; but at other points it was originally narrow, and is becoming more so by the gradual washing and falling in of the unwalled banks. The excavated mud is piled up in irregular ridges all the way to Atfeh, forty miles. Looking over and beyond, the broad, unfenced, level fields are clearly seen, for many miles. Some were flooded, others muddy by irrigation; some are pastured by cattle, driven and watched by little Arab boys and girls; and occasionally quite a pretty wooden house comes in for admiration, owned by a thrifty Turk; the upper windows — the sacred apartment

of the females — being closely defended by lattice-work. With a delightful breeze, long before night we arrived at Atfeh. Remains of the old canal of Fooah, which anciently united the Nile with Alexandria, were traceable on the route, at several points.

Atfeh, at the upper end of the canal, where it joins the Nile by a strong, heavy double lock, is a large mud town, extending on both sides of the canal, along its steep banks. One house only had glass windows, — belonging to the pasha, built by Mohammed Ali, the only person who has accomplished anything for the improvement of Egypt since the reign of the Ptolemies. Boats are made, of a very good quality, in front of their dirty homes, of very short pieces of wood, — the carpenters squatting on the ground to hew, saw or plane, — the custom with all orders of mechanics. These boats were all the time coming or going through the locks. Those that came down the river were laden with cotton and wheat, in bulk; peas, beans, millet, fowls, eggs, fruit, and whatever else they may have that is salable; while those returning were filled with lumber, passengers, cotton cloth, packages of goods, hardware from Europe, &c. Immense numbers of women and children were sitting, sleeping, or wandering about over the heaped-up cargoes. One man, perhaps, was bowing himself in prayer, towards Mecca; all were smoking, while the helmsman was the only one who seemed to have a care. It is quite common to see stout Arabs spinning cotton or wool by twirling a hand-spindle; knitting is also one of their feminine employments. Far more laborious pursuits are followed by females. They are seen carrying mud up from the canal, for building or repairing hovels, which they fashion with their dirty hands. At Atfeh we first saw the business of manufacturing manure, by females, in a large way. They collect it where cattle are

most abundant, — buffaloes, and perhaps camels, — mix it with straw, and, having beaten it into sheets of uniform size, stick them to the sides of their hovels to dry, as an article of merchandise, for which the demand is uniformly active. It is the fuel for bakers to heat their ovens, and for cooking generally; — wood and charcoal always bearing a high price in the interior. Wood appears to have been scarce in the days of mummy-making, from the circumstance that wooden cases by hundreds are found manufactured of narrow strips of wood, ingeniously dove-tailed together with pins.

By the wash of the water against the sides of the canal, — created in part by the steamer which runs backward and forward for the Transit Company, — by the natural slides of mud piled up on the margin, and the thousands of incidental circumstances operating to render shallow the canal, it has very considerably narrowed in some places, and filled up in others. Three huge steam mud-digging machines are constantly operating, to keep it in good condition, by moving to and fro. Wherever they happen to be located, the mud-carriers — who take the mud from the scow, into which it falls from the scooping buckets, to the top of the bank — have their tents, which are shabby, comfortless protections against either wind, rain, or a scorching sun.

Many of the boats were raised at their sides with boards plastered to each other with a mixture of mud and manure, by which, in a cargo that sunk the hull too deeply, the water was kept from the deck.

We had discovered, long before leaving the canal, that no Arab ever sits in a chair. They squat upon their hams, wherever they may be, — in doors or out. It was a novelty to view the groups of half-naked, ragged men, women and children, in the passing boats, luxuriating at full length on the

loose grain in bulk, — invariably squatting, sleeping, smoking, laughing or staring. Before reaching Atfeh, for three miles, the canal is bordered with noble acacias, bearing some resemblance to apple-trees. Their proximity to the water gives them an opportunity of being thoroughly developed.

The dragoman went ahead, accompanied by my resolute companions, for the purpose of having the locks opened, when the boat came up, without delay; which operation might otherwise be postponed by the slowly-moving servants of his highness till the next day. Bribes are the "open sesame" in Egypt, as in Rome and Naples. No matter what may be proposed, by bidding high enough, there is always a messenger to go wherever directed.

With the American flag flying at the peak, and a small douceur in hand, the gates opened like a charm. Just as one craft swung round the corner, lengthwise, into the rushing Nile, an upset boat, with a turbaned Arab clinging to the wreck, screaming loudly for help, came floating rapidly by. Hundreds of smokers looked calmly on, without moving a finger to save the drowning wretch, till he was nearly out of sight in a bend of the rapid stream, when a sail-boat went in pursuit. A row-boat passed the poor, helpless fellow, while he was praying piteously for assistance, without varying its course, or those in it apparently having their bowels of compassion moved in his behalf. Having no yawl, we washed our hands of the sin of neglect. Night came on fast, and our last view of the shamefully-neglected creature was indistinct. It appeared that he must either be carried ultimately out to sea, or be drowned before arriving there.

Made fast to the angle formed between the river and canal, we remained all night. A tolerable insight into the construction of the town was gained by the detention. The hovels

rarely have more than one room. On one side is a raised place, broad and long enough for spreading a mat, where the inmates sleep in the clothes they wear by day. The entrance is low, obliging them to stoop. Within, they are perfectly comfortless, — without furniture, windows, or conveniences. Women, children, and earthen jars, are the ordinary contents; while the flat roofs are tenanted by doves, poultry, and dogs. Noble, black-bearded men, wearing milk-white turbans, a large blue shirt, and barefooted, were frequently seen to enter these dirty, dismal, cheerless holes. They had expressive features, but no intelligence; strength, without knowing how to use it; and poverty, because there is no encouragement for individual enterprise.

Sometimes we had a blast of wind, and then none at all, which last obliged the crew to leap on shore with a tow-line with a loop, divided at the extremity into as many branches as there were men. At their leisure moments, individuals of the crew made themselves nice bits of loop-line, to be knotted on the end of the tow-rope when they were ordered to pull. We frequently passed mud villages as the boat ascended against a strong angry current, that brought to mind the Mississippi in its whole extent. Among others was the very ancient site of Sais, where was once a mighty city, and the burying-place of kings, — now covered, irregularly, with mud hovels. Mud dwellings occurred every few miles on both sides of the turbulent, swiftly-flowing Nile, which, at this point, appears much like the Father of Waters above and below Lake Pepin. Islands were passed, reared by the shifting currents; but, unlike those in the upper Mississippi, which are covered with wood, those on the Nile were bare. All the potable water is carried from the river, in heavy stone jars, on the heads of females, to each house in the village. Early in the morning, Arab girls, of from ten to twenty

years, — rarely older, — are seen coming down across the fields, generally in groups, for the supply of the day. They are dark, pretty tall, slender-limbed, with a wildness of expression when their faces are seen. Their bosoms and legs are unhesitatingly considerably exposed; but their whole effort is to keep the face covered. By little and little, when half a dozen of them are rinsing the jugs at a bend in the river, a veil — with them, a coarse piece of blue cotton — drops down, or falls to one side, being always kept fast by the hand, exposing their features. They stand there for gossip, and laugh merrily while washing themselves, previously to mounting the water-jars upon their heads, — rubbing themselves with the fat, unctuous mud, as we do with soap. When filled, not unfrequently, the jar is so heavy that the strength of two is required to raise it to the head of a third.

With the exception of a few rats, busy as carpenters under our heads, the boat was tolerably comfortable at night. Immensely large cockroaches would occasionally stride across the ceiling of the cabin, as though on a round of inspection. Our activity with a cane, and their adroitness in eluding a deadly blow, convinced us that their movements were the result of a reasoning process, rather than instinct alone.

Hassan was gone a long while to a village bazaar, — a lane, lined on both sides by vendors of tobacco, pipes, coarse earthen water-filters, vegetables, rice and fruits, — where he purchased some butter, which he considered good, that resembled soap-grease both in flavor and appearance. All the way from Alexandria, mounds of earth indicated the sites of former towns. These must have been an early invention, by the first settlers of the Nile valley, to keep beyond the reach of periodical inundations. They are from thirty to sixty, and perhaps some may be a hundred feet high. One or two mosques are usually

met with in large villages, — the minarets always of the same pattern, slender and tall. The body of a mosque is ordinarily square, of one story, with a small entrance-door, and a few small windows. There are one, two, and three terraces to each minaret, the shaft becoming smaller above each. A small pear-shaped dome, surmounted by a crescent, completes it. Small wooden cranes, — or, rather, figure-fours, — from which lights are suspended on feast-days and other glorifications, project from the roofs, the domes, or caps, of the minarets. At four o'clock, precisely, a priest, or, more commonly, a blind man, calls the faithful to prayers.

Tombs of Mohammedan saints are frequently met with. When seen at a distance over the broad expanse of intervening fields, the effect is fine. They are small square piles of stone, laid up in mortar, from ten to thirty feet on a side, surmounted by a dome, which is whitewashed. A large part of the modern mosques are of brick. They are not unfrequently near cemeteries; and such, too, is the case in respect to the tombs of sheiks and saints. When these last are in burying-grounds, it is common for the devout to enter them for prayer.

As we began to ascend the Nile, our crew exhibited more of their true character. At first there was evident restraint upon them, from the presence of strangers; but they finally observed a methodical course, that may be calculated upon each returning day. They prayed, individually, five times a day, with their faces towards Mecca. Let what might be going on, nothing could divert their solemn attention from the business they had commenced. They kneeled, and three times touched their foreheads to the floor. When one had finished his genuflexions, another commenced; and sometimes two or three at once, if they could be spared from duty. In the very midst of a difficulty, in trimming the sail, that required his practised

eye, the reis never turned his head towards the fluttering sheet till his religious duties had been brought to a deliberate close.

I have often felt reproached, coming from a Christian country to a professedly unchristian one, when witnessing the fervent piety of those whom we are taught to pity for their profound ignorance and spiritual blindness.

POSTURES OF PRAYER.

While passing a little fleet of boats, made fast to the bank, a man of excellent appearance — so far as a turban and a heavy black beard impart dignity — was vociferating, with great Arabic volubility, while another, with a bit of paper in his hand, made a motion, when, instantly, the orator was thrown upon his face by an obedient circle of spectators, and there held firmly, till eleven blows, severe and terrible, were given with a small rope. He screamed in an agony that distressed me. When liberated,

he picked up his turban, adjusted his disordered long blue shirt, and went on board one of the boats. Hassan said the man punished was the head of a village, who had been directed to have a certain amount of labor performed, somewhere, for the pacha, which not having been accomplished when the inspector arrived, was the cause of the inhuman punishment to which he had been subjected.

When the tax-gatherer calls for revenue that has been assessed, and it is not promptly paid, the delinquent is flogged on the spot by the sheik of the village, and subsequently imprisoned. For the crime of being too poor, he is flogged but once, and incarcerated from one to three months; or, if recruits are needed in the army or navy, he is marched off where his services are required, and that is the last of him. A discharge is out of the question, however long or meritorious may have been the career of the impressed subject. In the other case, the debtor to the state is flogged at certain intervals of time, till the money is received at the treasury, which the relations contrive to raise before he is quite killed.

Much pleasure was manifested, one day, by the crew, on account of a favorable breeze that sprang up when they were fatigued with a tedious pull at the tow-rope; and this was shown in a native dance near the bow. One of the boatmen — a sour, one-eyed fellow — had the reputation of being an excellent musician. His name was Mohammed, a patronymic of a large proportion of the lower orders in all Mohammedan countries. The instrument on which he performed was called a zumarah, made by himself, of two parallel pieces of reed, fourteen inches long by half an inch in diameter, bound together by twine. In the upper end were two vibrating reeds, similar to those in a hautboy. On each tube were five finger-holes, side by side, which were covered by two fingers of the left hand and

three of the right, while he blew in at the squeaking reeds. In order to produce a sound, it required a vast pectoral exertion, straining his eyes from their sockets fearfully. The sound was shockingly harsh and unmusical. There was no specific air, but a discordant tooting, which was keenly relished by the excited crew, who clapped their hands in unison, and moved their feet by jerks, notwithstanding they were all seated flat on the deck. It was an obscene exhibition, without any shuffle of the feet, when one of them rose for the dance.

We were not many hours in discovering that the Arab boatmen are a patient, honest, civil, indefatigable race. When a reis, or captain, takes a crew for an up-river voyage, the ordinary pay is not far from two piastres, or ten cents, a day. A pilot — always at the helm, night and day, when the boat is moving, acting as sailing-master also — has the wages of a man and a half, or fifteen cents per day. Their stock of provisions consists of a bag of stale black bread, broken into pieces, and some beans, together with extra purchases of a few thin sheets of soft bread, baked in hot ashes, procured on shore whenever we hauled up for a stop. They had an earthen jar to settle the water in, another for boiling their food till it was converted into a thick, soft mush, and a single pan to pour it into when ready. There was but one wooden spoon among them all. Sometimes one had it, and sometimes another. The boy who acted as cook stirred the pot with it, and tasted, to ascertain when it was soft enough, with the same useful instrument; and thus it was always in requisition. There was neither a knife, fork, axe, hammer, nail, nor anchor, on board.

When the wind failed, all hands sprang to the bank with the end of the rope, for towing. When necessity obliged us to stop, — for there were safe and unsafe places for hauling up for the night, — a wooden pin was driven into the mud by a big beetle,

bound with leather rings to keep it from splitting. Making the boat fast to the pin, a watch was set, and we retired. Twice a day the men sat round the broad pan of hodge-podge, and washed it down, with a capital relish, with Nile water. The reis maintained a show of superiority, by having a mat to sit upon. Each man invariably squatted flat on the deck, the moment he was able to do so. The pilot, when at his post, had his food carried to him; and the reis usually sat apart from the men, but not always. He never appeared to have anything to do, and was really a supernumerary. Through the aid of Hassan, he managed to get one pretty good meal out of us daily. With no thought for the morrow, he sat through the twelve hours, contemplating nothing; but rose punctually for prayers five times a day, — drank strong coffee, thick as Nile mud, without sugar, and smoked perpetually.

Having passed Dessook, another dance was projected, the pilot — a respectable, grave man, of forty-five — being the principal actor. High expectations of his performance were evidently entertained, when he took a position, barefooted, to begin. Extra strength was exerted to make sufficient melody, while the pilot assumed, as far as possible, the attitudes of a dancing girl. He raised first one and then the other hip surprisingly high, and twisted his spine as though it were made of India-rubber. It soon began to be eminently disgusting, and we turned away. His companions, however, expressed their extreme gratification by roars of laughter. Even Hassan, with his cultivated taste, considered it prodigiously funny. Abuzed condescended to withdraw the pipe-stem occasionally, and smile graciously. One of the sailors next stripped, put on a pointed felt, chocolate-colored cap, and a pair of white cotton pantaloons, which some traveller had given him, — a garment they rarely wear, — and, taking a rope-whip, flew

about with extraordinary dexterity, cracking it violently, and thrashing the legs of all who could be reached with it; and then commenced an extemporaneous farce, which consisted of two acts. One of his comrades personified a female. There was something of a dialogue,—simple, indeed, and quite beneath the intelligence of any European child; thus: "Why don't you dance?" Then the waggish interlocutor snapped the lash with power. The reis and crew-spectators were apparently all but convulsed with the wit of repartee, and inimitable resemblance of the actor to a woman. Little as we could discover of mirth-provoking material in the offensive, nay, disgusting jerkings and protrusions of the abdomen, they continued to laugh with a vehemence that actually brought tears. An Arab woman, dipping water, with her toes in the stream, as the boat was passing at a snail pace, noticed what was doing, which, to her crude conceptions of wit, was so inimitably fine, that she laughed too, heartily, showing a row of white teeth that no dentist could match.

One-eyed people began to thicken, and therefore attracted less attention than at first. A large proportion of the laborers on the land have lost a fore-finger of the right hand, and not unfrequently one or two front teeth of the right side of the upper jaw. The deficit in both cases was voluntary,—to be unsuitable for the army:—without the missing finger, theoretically, the trigger of a gun could not be pulled, nor a cartridge-cap torn off without teeth. The farmers are exceedingly industrious, to all appearance, but conduct their business under peculiar disadvantages. Their tools are very miserable, and quite unsuitable. The ploughs are wretched; the team that draws them, worse still; while the principal tool for all work is a heavy hoe, shaped like a carpenter's adze, with a handle rarely more than two feet long. The operator is com-

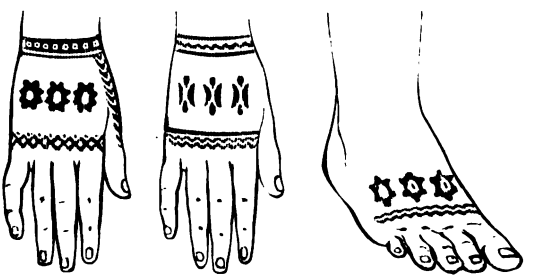
pelled to stoop almost double to use it, — giving him precisely the attitude of the ancient Egyptians, as portrayed in the tombs and sculptured monuments. A team, composed of a cow and an ass, or an ox and a camel, made fast to a yoke, perfectly straight, ten feet apart, appears singularly absurd, dragging a plough that is but little superior to a crooked limb of a tree. The fields they were preparing for seed were excessively muddy, having the appearance of having recently been flooded; consequently, the soil was provokingly adhesive to their feet, and clogged the coulter to a degree that required frequent halts to clear it. Both sides of the river present machines for raising water, of the clumsiest imaginable description. Some are large, clumsy wheels, turned by a bullock, and carrying on the periphery a chain of earthen jars. On coming up full, the contents are poured into a mud trench, from whence it runs off towards the place to be irrigated. Another method is by the common pole and bucket; a slow and laborious process, and excessively severe, where men, under a burning sun, quite naked, are drawing up water, for the same object, the whole time.

All my observations, thus far, on the lower Nile, below its bifurcation into two branches, prove it to be a rapid, turbid river. The banks all the way up to within twenty-five or thirty miles of Cairo are nearly perpendicular, — appearing as though cut down with spades. Boats of the largest class glide within three feet of them without touching bottom. This indicates a deep channel, which, unfortunately, we had not the apparatus for sounding. In throwing out a fish-line, heavily leaded, when lying by the bank, such was the force of the current, that in a twinkling it was floated out to the surface. It could not be kept long enough in one place for a fish to nibble. Perhaps, however, short turns modified very considerably the

momentum; and upon the opposite side, where this velocity was remarkable, there might have been only a slow, sluggish movement.

At some distance from the river-banks,—often a mile or more,—are artificial ridges, or embankments of earth,—upon an average, perhaps, ten feet high,—to prevent the swollen river, at its annual rise, from flooding the country too extensively, which is lower than the banks of the river in many places. Sluices are cut through the barriers, commanded by rude gates, through which the grounds beyond are irrigated. There are, too, in many localities, immense mud-wall enclosures, in which the water is fenced in, to be let out, as necessity may require, after the fall of the river. One of the prime considerations with every inhabitant is to obtain water, and it therefore constitutes a prominent subject of conversation with laborers, and those interested in crops. Whatever there is of prosperity for Egypt solely and exclusively depends on that one element.

We stopped at a mud town for dates, where many large boats were taking in cotton. The bazaar was a short, dirty street, covered over head with old mats and brush, to exclude the sun's rays. Onions, dates, tobacco, and soft, pancake sheets of bread, eggs and melons, were the principal articles of traffic,—the sellers all sitting by their effects, cross-legged, gravely smoking, while waiting for customers. The town was densely stocked with very common people; and the females lounging round their huts, sitting in the shade of a rickety wall, or carrying water, were poorly clad in a single loose blue garment, and singularly tattooed on their chins. From the margin of the under lip to the under side of the chin, the soot of the castor-bean, or India ink, had been so freely pricked in, as to resemble a piece of blue ribbon, an inch in width. On



TATTOOED GIRL. Page 52.

the arms of some of them queer devices were drawn, with the same never-washout material.

We were constantly passing boats of all dimensions, crowded to their utmost capacity with men, women, children, hens, turkeys, geese, doves and donkeys. On some of the grain-boats, lots of half-naked persons were seen dozing under the protection of coarse straw mats. When we came to a cut in the river-bank, to let the water off laterally, our bronzed-colored fresh-water sailors stripped off their only covering, which they balanced on their heads, and fearlessly plunged in with the end of the tow-line, swam or waded across, and, on coming out on the opposite side, tugged away again.

The more I analyzed their figures, and their positions in the various labors in which the people are engaged, the more forcibly was I struck with the resemblance of these long, slender-limbed natives, to the attitudes of the ancient Egyptians, pictured on mummy-cases, and in the tombs. All they require is a wig, to be identically like them. It is a modern discovery, that those who were preserved by embalming, perhaps by millions, in the mummy-pits, actually wore artificial hair. Their own was shorn off, no doubt, precisely as it is now universally practised throughout all Egypt. This explains the clumsy, ungainly appearance of their heads, saturated and betangled with bituminous compounds. Wherever an attempt was made, by the artists of three, four, and I know not but more thousands of years ago, to represent an Egyptian, — whether king, priest or peasant, — the hair is always the same mass of heavy locks, matted down by the side of the ears and back of the neck. Females escaped the expense and hideous appearance of wigs, and wore their own hair, in whatever manner they chose. To my apprehension, if the turban were taken away, the ordinary dress of the common people does not differ

essentially, and their manners deviate but slightly, from those who occupied the lands in the days of the Pharaohs.

There are no farm-houses, insulated, or in clusters; the inhabitants of a district invariably huddle together on the old mounds, which are just high enough to keep them from being drowned. There would be no safety in being the tenant of a lone residence, since the prowling wanderers of the deserts would assuredly lay them under contribution at an unexpected moment. Besides, were a house built anywhere in a field, it would certainly be swept away; and, if carried far enough back from the river to be beyond the reach of the impetuous stream, it would necessarily be placed on the edge of the desert, exposed to the marauding attacks of men, wild, ferocious and ungovernable.

All the mounds appear to be old. No new ones are constructed; nor is there any necessity of doing so, since there is room in abundance for a vast increase of population on those artificial hill-tops.

Near the brink of the river, still further onward towards the capital, I saw a camel and a buffalo yoked together, ploughing. It was a supremely awkward team. In Belgium it is no uncommon sight for two cows to draw by their horns; or, in Switzerland, an ass and cow to be harnessed together; but this comical combination of brute strength of the camel and buffalo was extremely ludicrous.

A pole full twelve feet long was laid across their necks,—the animals being all of nine feet apart; in the middle, a palm-leaf rope was made fast, attached to an apology for a plough. Farmers in any agricultural section of the United States would be astonished, were they present, to see how fine a furrow can be turned with such a strangely-crooked stick,—nearly equal to those made by a patent plough. The surface of the arable

land was hard and sun-baked, where the water was not partially covering it, and not light or mellow. Where crops were growing, especially Indian corn, the water stood in sheets, which turned the soil into a soft adhesive mud, in which the laborer sunk up to his ankles.

At another point on the east side of the river, still proceeding slowly onward, we made a brief stop close to a town, where was a perfect jam of naked children and vociferating women, urging the sale of their soft hot bread, by the side of piles of coarse pottery, such as pans, water-filters and other kinds of dishes, of a primitive character. On leaving, we next passed long fields of corn, millet, yams and other coarse vegetables. Watering machines became plenty, at shorter intervals, turned both by oxen and men. The well-pole system, with the roughest, poorest combination of apparatus imaginable, must be a laborious mode of obtaining water. The bucket was either a basket, a bit of matting gathered in, or a piece of skin, from which half the water spilled out before it was upset into the mud-trough. All along on the tops of the houses, in another village, there were literally towers of dung-cakes, the size of ordinary dining-plates, drying for future use or sale. They were stocks of fuel. Repeatedly we passed herds of buffaloes enjoying a bath in the Nile, — every part of their bodies but their nostrils being concealed under water. Some of them were wise in keeping their eyes above the surface, as sentinels for their careless or more luxurious friends. They called up the idea of the hippopotami, which may yet be met with in the upper regions of Nubia; and with respect to color, a dead leaden hue, it is quite like that of the river horse, one of which I saw in London, — the first and only one ever brought alive to Europe. The frequent repetition of this cooling process of the buffaloes and other cattle, recalled Pharaoh's dream of the

lean and the fat kine that came up. No doubt, in his day, the ancestors of these very domesticated animals bathed precisely in the same manner, and, perhaps, near where the monarch, in the unquiet slumbers of the night, imagined he saw them come up out of the water; for this was not very far from Sais, the great city and burial-place of the ancient kings of Egypt.

At four o'clock in the afternoon of the day,—the date is not essential,—we came in sight of two of the great pyramids of Geezeh. Had not the pilot informed us what they were, they would have been taken for stacks of grain, as they were not expected, and, withal, were so small—owing to the distance—that it could hardly be credited they were the mighty monuments of which the world had been ringing thousands of

years. I was exceedingly disappointed at their diminished altitude. Still, although at many miles' distance, Hassan said the boat might reach Boulac by nine o'clock in the evening, if a good strong wind should spring into the sail.

The capricious and feeble winds wholly gave out before the longed-for hour, which obliged the crew to tug at the tow-line till nearly ten o'clock, when the reis ordered the boat to be secured to the bank, where we laid till just before morning.

The sun rose in resplendent beauty, showing the glory of God in a way to impress even a Moslem mind with sentiments of devotional admiration. No wonder there were sun-worshippers, on that side of the globe, in the early history of our race, if its brilliant rays darted off with the same inimitable display of golden radiance that characterizes its rising and setting in this old age of the world!

For fear of contracting or developing ophthalmia, — the dreaded evil, of universal prevalence in Egypt, — we avoided reading much in the evening. Should a dryness and smarting be felt in the organs of vision, or their appendages, a frequent dashing of cold water upon them affords permanent, and sometimes quite speedy, relief. Those who may follow on the same track, and who are consequently liable to the same kind of evils, in the form of diseases only slight at the worst, are cautioned not to fly instantly to medicine for every trifling ache or soreness they may discover. Above all, never resort to eye-waters which may have been recommended, without reference to the form of inflammation that may exist. An unremitting application of cold water, by laying saturated pledgets over the orbits, is generally successful in subduing it.

There was a period when our movement up stream was so very slow, and our eagerness to be at the pyramids — the wonder of wonders, which occupied my thoughts in the corner, in my boyhood — so intense, that the remaining stock of patience waxed low, and, by way of pastime, Hassan Ismeme, the dragoman, was called aft to relate his adventures, or, rather, to relate where he had been, — his calling being that of a guide in the East. Had any person, possessing the faculty of ready expression, seen but half that had greeted Hassan's eyes, he would have been the author of thrilling octavos. I scarcely know where he had not been. He spoke Arabic, his vernacu-

lar, fluently, of course; English he was very tolerable in; and then there were certain Nubian or up-river dialects at his tongue's end. He was a clever fellow,—dressy, had a wife at Alexandria, as before mentioned, and another at Luxor, directly opposite Thebes; for the necessities of both we advanced him money. He said frankly that he liked the Alexandrian one best of the two. Had we gone to Dongola, a relay of wives might have been stationed all the way. One of his wives had a son, and the other a daughter; but the mother of the boy was a jewel, as all women are who have the good fortune to have a male child, in all parts of the Orient. His leading ambition was to go to Mecca, that he might have the honor which is conceded to one who has walked seven times round the tomb of the prophet. Nothing but his limited circumstances, he said, prevented him from going; "but, please God," he continued, "I hope to get there yet." I offered to take him there, provided he would insure me a safe trip. He immediately raised an objection to the proposition, by saying that the pilgrimage would not be efficacious to him were it made by a Moslem in the capacity of a servant; he must approach the Caäba in the dignity of a gentleman, or not at all. Further, he observed, it would be attended with too much hazard to a Christian, for were he detected in gratifying an impious curiosity, his fate would be inevitably sealed. One other pious aspiration—associated, in his mind, with the idea of acceptable service to the Deity, and in accordance with the usages of society—was the circumcision of his son, who, as previously related, was about eight years old, and still remained without the mark of affiliation into the brotherhood of true believers.

The boat proved to be so comfortable, that we entertained

the idea of bargaining for it to ascend the river as far as it might be an object to proceed.

Discovering two chickens, bound together by the legs, under deck, their pitiable condition led me to plead for their liberation with those who were owners with me in the joint-stock company. On loosing the cord, it was obvious that the ligature had completely paralyzed a leg of each. A course of surgical treatment was forthwith commenced, the results of which were particularly gratifying to a practitioner without business. Once or twice, the flexor muscles refusing to act, it was necessary, in the evening, to assist one of them to re-roost, as the brisk, bustling fellow — a cock — occasionally tumbled off. Matters were progressing favorably for his recovery, and exhilarating to the vanity of the operator, when a sad event occurred. My pleasure in the daily improvement of the little feathered invalids was sincere. To my consternation, on sitting down to the dinner-table, one day, both my patients were taken, smoking hot, from a pot! It was a gratification, however, — they were so abominably tough, — that only one of them had his bones picked by the company.

We were visibly nearing the pyramids, — they were said to be only nine miles distant, — when the boat came up to the barrage, or bridge across the Nile. It is a beautiful structure, built by a French engineer, where the channel is both deep and intensely rapid. The arches are of large, heavy brick, neatly turned, the feet of which stand in iron boxes, which were sunk thirty feet in the mud, below the water, before striking a hard bottom. From the foundation to the top of the arch is ninety feet. A smaller bridge is carried in the same manner over the Damietta branch, near by, to the eastward of this curious piece of staunch mechanism. I examined a monstrous diving-bell, in which sixty men were lowered down

together, to do the subaquatic masonry. Pile-driving machines, mud-digging apparatus, — worked by steam, — and machinery of various kinds, suitable for carrying on a heavy business, were lying at different points. There were great mounds of stone, bricks, timber, and other materials; and laborers, soldiers, carts, horses, boats, mules and slaves, in abundance, which gave an air of activity, for miles around. Six years have elapsed since the undertaking was commenced, by direction of the late Mohammed Ali.

Above the bridge, on either side, where the abutments are erected in an alluvial foundation, the banks are very securely paved with flat stones and brick, cemented together, to prevent the action of the water from washing away the pier-heads. Large gates are to be placed between the arches, which, on being closed, will instantly dam up the river, and it will consequently set back, and thus flood an immense expanse of country. By closing the gates on both river branches, no water could pass down the channel, till a perfect lake is formed. A gigantic scheme of irrigation was contemplated by this plan, besides having it always within the power of the government to fill the great reservoirs for local supply, remote from the river. Over the bridge a railroad track was contemplated. This is believed to be the first bridge ever attempted on the lower Nile. So immensely costly must have been the enterprise thus far, that it indicates far more ample resources than it was previously supposed could have been at the command of the old pasha. In the course of my investigations, while walking about the bridge, an engineer from England, who was attached to the monster diving-bell, furnished some statistical information in relation to the views and intentions of the originator of the plan, whose energy gave an impulse

to every enterprise he undertook; but fears are now entertained that it will never be completed. Only a few arches more are to be constructed, to give a clear, safe road from one side of the river to the other. At present it is in no way serviceable, either for travel or as a dam. When my survey was instituted,—that is, when the following items were gathered,—the Nile had fallen nearly to its lowest level, leaving a depth of thirty feet of water, and of soft mud below, thirty more. The length of the piers is ninety feet, thirty of which are above the surface. In 1849 there were twenty-five thousand men employed on it; but, towards the close of 1850, the number was reduced to two thousand, in consequence of a want of means. Every three months the governor of a district was called upon for a definite number of villagers for this station; they were promiscuously impressed, and sent on. Their daily pay was equal to seven cents only, and they were obliged to find their own food as they could. It is a cruel service; and the men are neither fitted by knowledge or capacity for conducting a business in which they have had no experience. They are reluctant servitors; and desertions, theft,—to satisfy the appetite,—and the hardships, provocations and severe treatment they are uninterruptedly receiving, rendered it necessary to have discipline established and order maintained. Besides a patrol guard, a police court was organized, with a judge who comprehended his master's will. That tribunal is lodged in a corner of the arsenal, at the east end of the bridge. Blows settle all difficulties; and the bastinado is superior to an army, according to the theory of the times, in that despotism. Two witnesses are sufficient to sustain a charge, and, from some subsequent observations, it appeared that one would answer. On all simple, trivial affairs, fifty lashes are meted out to an adult, and twenty-five to a boy, and instantly, too.

The Englishman said a perpetual flogging was going on every day but Friday, — the Mohammedan Sabbath. The chief engineer — a Frenchman — receives a salary of twenty-five purses a month, — equal to one hundred and twenty-five pounds sterling; the judge, twelve pounds per month, for keeping the laborers well subdued by the courbash, or raw hide of the hippopotamus; and thus the bridge is building, and thus it will remain, till the gates are shut for the first time, when it will keel over before the flood.

While gazing and reconnoitring the ground round about these gigantic works, a ragged black fellow, half bare above his hips, and all below, ordered the boat from the pin to which it was fast in the mud, waiting for a wind sufficiently strong to waft us through the narrow passage between the piers of the bridge, where the current, from being compressed, ran furiously. He announced himself, with an air of consequence, the pasha's guard. I pointed to the stars and stripes at the peak, and told him to touch the line upon his peril. The reis felt some anxiety, and even Hassan exhibited a shade of cowardice, at the name of the ruler of the destinies of Egypt. After a monkey display of oratorical wrath, referring frequently to the authority with which he was invested, he quietly intimated that a present would make all right, although the law was broken. We gave him nothing, but threatened to crack his bones if he did not keep at a respectful distance. Soon after this tea-pot tempest, the wind came in earnest; the boat shot through, and the pyramids loomed up to the heavens; the minarets of Cairo came into view, and the encouragement was held out of reaching Boulac, the port of the city, by sundown.

CAIRO.

Notwithstanding our expectations, we did not fairly step on shore at Boulac till near midnight, and it was necessary to remain on board till the following morning. The trunks being lashed on the backs of donkeys, and a set being procured for ourselves to ride, — the distance being all of two miles, — we moved off from the din of noise, braying of asses, growl of camels, dust, and the rabble of men, women and children. There was some examination of luggage, or a fee to pay, to exempt it from that ordeal, so detrimental to reserved linen. Not a spire of grass was anywhere recognized. A wide road, bordered by acacias, lined the way. At the entrance-gate there was some form to comply with, not remembered, in combination with those moving panoramic displays of human beings, in new attitudes and dresses, on the route to the great Arab city.

Somewhere on the Cairo side of the Nile, tradition says the infant Moses was picked up, in his bulrush float, by Pharaoh's daughter. As for defining the exact locality, the attempt would be ridiculous. When fairly within the city, we found a small hotel, centrally placed, near the focus of business, close to the post-office, from whence explorations were commenced.

Cairo, the capital of Egypt, is comparatively modern, called by the inhabitants Mus-r. It was commenced in the year 973, and, notwithstanding the singular changes it has passed through, in the vicissitudes of war, intestine commotions, rebellions, fire and sword, it has survived them all, and may be considered a great city. About four miles above, on the same side of the river, are heaps of broken brick, stone, mortar, pottery, — the refuse of ages, — piled up to a hundred feet, perhaps, in several places, extending widely; and near the water, for more

than half a mile, are houses of all patterns, and a ferry. These indicate the site of Fostat, once the capital, now called Old Cairo. A wall of considerable strength encircles the new city, but when built is not material. The houses are of wood, brick and stone, carried up two and three stories, on streets which are, in a majority of cases, not over five feet wide. Each story juts out beyond the one beneath it, so that the dwellings on opposite sides nearly meet. One might cross from a second story to an opposite window. The houses have a miserably poor, dingy, antique appearance, and no doubt half of them, at least, were constructed out of old materials, that have been in temples or houses twenty times before. Occasionally, a tolerably good house is noticed. There are no chimneys, and all the windows in the second story are usually covered with fine lattice frames. Those within can look out, but those in the street cannot peer in. Wherever such barricaded windows are, there is the harem; they are numerous, too.

There are reputed to be four hundred mosques. The minarets are not beautiful, but mostly very miserable specimens of brick masonry, poorly painted. A majority of the mosques are in a ruinous condition,—the steps fallen partly down, glass broken, doors settled, &c. I visited several, and invariably found them of the poorest and shabbiest of all religious edifices seen in other countries. Some have a plain, movable pulpit, others none at all. While some of them are quite long, they have no architectural proportions. None of them equal in size ordinary country churches with us. Usually there is a yard, enclosed by a high wall, in the centre of which is a tank of water, two, three, or four feet high, and about ten feet across. The water is supplied by artificial means. When worshippers are about entering for their devotions, they step up on the brim of the tank, and, squatting on their haunches, wet the

tips of their ears, wash their foreheads, — cautiously avoiding the eyes, — rinse the mouth, and then they are ready to enter.

Pious Moslem citizens think to purchase heaven by the same course pursued with us; — by giving what they can no longer use to the church. Water being the universal element, on which all life and health depends in Egypt, it engrosses the thoughts of those particularly who seek opportunities for manifesting their benevolence, — a quality in high estimation among Mohammedans; and they make endowments for keeping a tank or fountain, always filled, in a mosque, for the use of all Moslems.

In passing by a mosque, it is common to see one or two brass tubes projecting an inch or two, on a level with the mouth of persons of medium height. By sucking at these, a draught is raised. These are the boasted fountains some travellers have admired. There are no fountains in the streets, or anywhere else within the walls, except wells, out of which the water is raised by a wheel, turned by a bullock. The city does not stand so high as to prevent reaching water that percolates from the river, through the earth. Several wells are on the lower or western margin of the city, towards the river; and from them the gardens are supplied. Joseph's Well, at the citadel, cut through solid rock to the depth of two hundred and sixty feet, is conceived to have been executed by the ancient Egyptians. It is one of the curiosities of the town, and was accidentally discovered, — filled with sand, — in 1171, by Saladin, of bloody memory. There is an inclined plane winding down, like a spiral staircase, all the way. Horses and oxen can be driven up or down. I descended as far as curiosity prompted. An ox was down more than one hundred and fifty feet, turning a wheel to raise the contents, and at the top was another. The supply is thought to come by an aqueduct

stretching to the river, near old Cairo, where it is raised up there, from the flowing stream, by bullocks.

There is not a drop of water in Cairo, not raised, either directly or indirectly, from the river. The wheels, covered with earthen pots tied to ropes, descending and coming full, are numerous. Donkeys, in marvellous numbers, — in fact, in droves, — are all the while going to Boulac, and returning with goat-skins filled with the precious beverage. The demands of the population for water, in the few rude arts, for animals and irrigation, require an incessant activity to meet the ordinary consumption. There is not a handsome fountain, nor one with running water, in Cairo, to my knowledge.

One wide street has been commenced; and a cutting, slashing business it has been, through every dwelling or estate on the line. This will ultimately be a decent road, rather too narrow, through which the viceroy may drive his carriage. No remonstrance would prevail against any measure he chose to carry, since his will is sovereign, being an unlimited despot, brooking no contradictions. He owns the land, and the people are simply tenants at will. All the streets are delightfully clean. I rarely ever detected a nuisance of any magnitude in any of them. At the extremity of each is a heavy wooden gate, suspended on clumsy hinges, driven all over with nails, which is closed soon after dark. Thus each street is perfectly insulated, so far as intercourse is concerned, at nightfall. Even the outside wall gates are of wood, protected in the same manner, and are not so ponderous but that a strong man might walk off with one of them on his shoulder, as Samson did with the gates of Gaza, — a feat that loses a little of its miraculous character on seeing what kind of gates are now in use, and probably were in his day.

A few coaches are in use by the principal leading government

men attached to the court of the pasha. They can drive off in some of the wide roads Mohammed Ali constructed, towards the palace of Shoobra, and over the great barren plains to the north, facing the sand-swells behind the city.

Cairo is an irregular congregation of mosques, large and small edifices of all shapes and descriptions, inhabited by nobody knows who. It is in the occupancy of Arabs, Turks, Jews, Copts and Europeans, interspersed among whom are Berbers, Nubians, Abyssinians, and representatives of very distant African tribes. It is understood that the former have sections by themselves, as the Jews' quarter, Copts' quarter, &c. Europeans begin to exert an influence over all the others, and are fast modifying them, without meddling with their peculiar institutions. Wherever foreigners are, the houses and shops have comforts and conveniences combined; and their manner of building, doing business, &c., will, at a future day, change the present aspect of Cairo. There is a custom, or law, that huddles those of a trade together; which may have been brought about by the determination of some ancient ruler. All the blacksmiths are near each other, and so of other mechanics. The pipe-makers concentrate in a similar manner; and there are sections where tailors are in the ascendant. The municipal government is simple and efficient, and life and property are as secure there as in any place in Christendom. As the viceroy resides in and near Cairo, his presence has an obvious influence in the preservation of order, in a population of several hundred thousand, where it is clearly understood that an infraction of a single regulation he has established would be instantly visited by a tremendous punishment, from which none are exempt but those under the protection of foreign consuls. Under the governor is a military force, scattered over the city, in barracks. The soldiers are on duty with loaded guns, espe-

cially at night, at all the gates, round all the public buildings, at the treasury, mint, palaces, and citadel, overlooking the city, and wherever it is possible their services might be wanted. I have been in no town or city so remarkably quiet, and where all you meet were so universally civil.

One week, constantly devoted to sight-seeing, is quite sufficient for Cairo. I began with the citadel,—an irregular, half-strong and shabby fortress, at the east of the town, elevated on the rocks, but commanded by still higher cliffs beyond. There was the spot where the late pasha succeeded in collecting all the Beys, or Mameluke governors, whom he ferociously slaughtered, and thus gained the sovereignty of Egypt. One only was saved, by leaping his horse over a low wall, to a frightful descent of one hundred feet below. By looking over the dizzy height, I realized the dreadful chance there was for life, in falling such a distance, on the back of a horse, to the roof of a small house. The obedient animal was dashed into jelly, but the master made his escape, and lived many years after. This slaughter has been repeatedly cited as an evidence of the cruelty, love of blood and carnage, of Mohammed Ali. They had been plotting for his life, and no effort had been spared which their cunning could devise, to compass their darling object, on the success of which depended their own security and the maintenance of their authority. He outwitted them, established a throne, and raised Egypt from its national degradation, to a position unexpected and surprising, in a comparatively short period, through the indomitable energy of his own restless mind. Any statesman or civilian would have been justified in pursuing the same policy. Its atrocity grew out of the impossibility of apprehending his enemies, and disposing of them by milder means. Mohammed Ali is not appreciated, nor his extraordinary abilities acknowledged. Those who could

neither control him, circumvent his plans, nor comprehend his policy, vilified his name, and held him up as a monster in human form. Under all the embarrassments consequent upon neither reading or writing, — with no education that gave him an insight into the institutions of Christian countries, beyond the discovery that they were strong and Turkey was weak, and even rotten at its vitals, — he commenced a revolution, with barbarians and Moslem fanatics, which was without a parallel in history; achieved the purpose he contemplated; and, had it not been for the interference of European powers, he would have subverted the Ottoman empire, and seated himself upon the divan of his royal master in Constantinople.

A new, and, for modern Egypt, a magnificent mosque, is drawing towards completion, near the citadel, in which the remains of the regenerator repose. When I entered it, the carpenters, masons, painters, &c., were driving on the work rapidly. In the south corner there was a space of twelve feet square, railed off with simple pine strips, nailed to four pieces of joist, to keep visiters from profaning the sarcophagus of the old hero, whose body is there enclosed, to be more magnificently disposed of when the edifice — erected by funds which he set apart for the object — is in readiness. Even the case of the coffin looked like a mere pine box, three feet wide by five high, brought into the form of the ridge-pole of a house. Within that there was, probably, a leaden coffin of a costly kind. Over the whole, cashmere shawls were carelessly thrown. Within a couple of yards, common hearth-rugs were promiscuously laid upon the rough floor, on which a number of devout Mussulmans were groaning, praying, rolling their eyes towards the skies, and see-sawing, as they squatted on the mats, as if oppressed with profound grief. We were assured that they were hired to pray

for the quiet of the soul of his late highness; and that would account for their being always at the work whenever we called.

The police of the city of Cairo do not appear savage or reckless; on the contrary, they are individually civil. Nor were they harsh to those under arrest. My lodgings being near the treasury, I observed that after the little gate at the end of the short lane was shut, they spread their mats, and, for aught I know, had a sound night's sleep.

A sheik, or local magistrate, is made responsible for the peace and respectability of the immediate neighborhood under his care. If he hears or sees any unusual movement, he forthwith inquires into it, and takes measures accordingly. The population is assumed to be two hundred and forty thousand, and the whole of Egypt as less than two millions. In Egyptian times of prosperity, there was probably a population of about seven millions; and the land is capable of sustaining, bountifully, eight millions. Yet all these human beings, of diversified characters and blood, strangely brought in contact, — controlled by religious prejudices, and always influenced by selfish desires, — are governed, not only in Cairo, but throughout all Egypt, by the simplest legal machinery ever put in motion. Fear restrains; but neither love, respect, or national glory, prompts any one to be an exemplary citizen. They will overreach each other in barter trades, if they can; and Jews and Christians are fair game, under all circumstances. Yet they are proverbially honest when property is confided to their care, and hospitable to the last crust.

Through the day there is quite enough that is new to keep the tourist occupied; but when the shades of night come over the town, the hours pass off heavily. There are but few amusements for Europeans, and none at all for the natives. As they have no literary resources, seldom play at games of

chance, neither cultivate music nor enjoy social domestic interchange of conversation, if awake, the night must drag slowly on. Like fowls, they retire early. Houses of the common people rarely have the show of a light. If they go into the streets, each carries a paper lantern. It shows him a safe place for his feet, while it indicates an honest purpose to the street watch; and, better still, keeps the dogs at bay. Dogs are one of the modern plagues of Egypt; and it is possible they always have been, through all the phases of its eventful history. They abound in towns and villages to a frightful extent. They commence barking and fighting among themselves as soon as it is dark; and many a dead carcass of a recently-slaughtered one may be seen on the mounds, by daylight. I have seen them when so hoarse, by incessant barking, that they could make no sound whatever, although going through the show of howling. They have certain districts, in all large dog communities, appropriated to a certain pack of friends, and death to the intruder follows. It is dangerous, on account of these fero-

cious, half-starved creatures, to stir out at night without a lantern. They are without owners, yet they are about every house, and on the tops of them, sleeping and sunning through the day. At Geezeh, where droves of cattle, from Dongola, wait for purchasers, day after day, several bullocks are usually

found dead every morning, and the dogs prowl about the herd in expectancy. When a carcass is given them, it is torn to pieces with incredible dispatch. They are of a dirty yellow, not much larger than foxes, with the savage appearance of wolves.

Mechanics do not work in the evening, as with us, in the winter months. On the other hand, they rise very early. At four o'clock, a simultaneous call to prayers, from four hundred minarets, in the stillness of opening morning, in perfect unison, strikes the ear with the sweetness of a single silvery-toned bell; and away move the faithful followers of the prophet, to bow, touch the earth with their foreheads, and to deprecate their sins.

On a certain occasion, myself and companions were invited to dine with Dr. Abbott, an English physician, settled in Cairo, at six in the evening. The hour had passed when the host came into the apartment,—where we had been some time, waiting his return,—apologizing for the apparent incivility of not being in to receive us; but said, in extenuation, he had been to the proper authorities to obtain permission for us to pass through the gates to our lodgings after nine o'clock, but without success. Consequently, the dinner was rather hurried. We sat upon cushions on the floor, at a round metallic table, a foot high, on which one dish was brought at a time, by the servant. Neither knives, forks nor spoons, were provided. With our fingers we plunged into the provisions, and, dripping and hot, carried the morsels to the mouth. We could not manage to wisp up a sop as adroitly as one who had been in practice twenty years. Servants stood behind us with long-necked ewers; and when they poured the water out, it was caught in brass basins somewhat resembling an inverted cullender. Our watches finally startled us with the position of their hands near the figure nine; so we hurried out, quite uncer-

emoniously, and mounted the waiting donkeys, which were urged to their utmost speed by their supple drivers. In spite of our best efforts, — although their little feet moved as fast as drumsticks, — the dreaded gate was closed. The doctor's servant accompanied us with a lantern, and, discovering our dilemma, cried out lustily that the hakeem must pass through. Fortunately, it was true that one of the party was a doctor. The guard, associating the rascal's master with a hakeem, drew the heavy bolt, pushed the door ajar, and away we went, at still greater speed. Unfortunately, my animal stumbled, and threw me directly over his head, and came rolling upon me himself. The bruise was no joke, to say nothing of the fright. However, we got home safely. And this illustrates a social evening with Christians in Cairo.

All the streets are irregular, dark alleys, with a very few exceptions, never lighted by lamps. It was never in my power to find the way more than a few rods, such was the irregularity of the windings, and the difficulty of seeing a prominent mark of any kind. In attempting to pursue a direct line, the failure was signal; and without a director, it was impossible to retrace my steps. The bazaars are also narrow alleys, on each of which are little recesses into the abutting buildings. There the trader sits, flat on the floor, generally smoking, till interrupted by a customer. A large grocer may keep all his stock in twenty peck-baskets, on shelves, and by the side of his knees. Bread-shops occupy but a small space. I have looked into many an oven the floor of which was on a level with the shop floor; and the baker sat, as all others do there, on his haunches. Hundreds of weavers of fringes, narrow silk scarfs, &c., are seen scattered widely over the bazaar ground, with the clumsiest machinery and the rudest looms that were ever seen, fixed to the floor, the web upon the beam just clearing it. To meet

the treaddles, a hole is dug in the earth, where they suspend their legs, and thus their feet touch the treaddles. They are ingenious in keeping up a connection with the floor. By raising the loom and sitting on a stool, a more agreeable position would seem to be secured; but such is not the custom.

Narrow as the streets are, everybody rides — on donkeys, of course. It is broad farce to see a very large man, with a coal-black beard, basket-turban, and bare legs, his feet dangling to the ground, amble by, spurred on by a half-naked Arab boy, who pommels a stubborn little ass, not much larger than a South Down sheep, to keep him in a trot. They are kept saddled about the hotels, near certain corners, in the bazaars,

in the square fronting the citadel, and by the city gates. If an excursion is made to the margin of the desert, to the pyramids, old Cairo, the palace at Shoobra, Heliopolis, or the petrified forest, — which really means a few scattered logs, — it is accomplished exclusively on donkeys.

There are splendid horses in Cairo, chiefly belonging to officers of the army, and official dignitaries. By taking a position to the south of the Mosque of Mohammed Ali, on a wall that permits the spectator to take an extensive view of the plain in front, stretching out towards the tombs of the Mameluke kings, I have watched the exercises of the cavalry with exceeding interest. The horses know quite as much as their riders, and would be far preferable companions. However, the soldiers ride gallantly and daringly. A post being placed at the distance of ten or twelve rods from a starting-point, with a red cap on the top, a horseman runs furiously to it, and, in the act of turning round it, he strikes with his sword to behead the fixed enemy. Their speed is so extremely rapid that the cap is not hit very frequently. The bits are constructed with an iron lever, six inches long, that lies on the animal's tongue. A slight check of the rein presses the bar most cruelly into the roof of the animal's mouth, bringing him to an instantaneous stand-still, even when upon highest speed. Blood on the lips and the bridle shows his suffering. The horses are of all colors, as with us; not large, but of medium height and size. They are always in excellent condition, their haunches being plump and round. Hay they never have, in the sense we understand the term. Very dry barley or wheat straw, night and morning, in which beans are freely mixed, constitutes their food. Once a year, — in June, if I remember rightly, — they are put out in the fields for upwards of twenty days, to feed on green clover, and other fresh stuff.

All the army-horses in Egypt have their tails cut square off, leaving a long heavy mass, out of which a little hank of hairs is permitted to shoot out as far as it will. Their shoes are light and thin, covering the whole foot, save a small oval orifice for the pressing out of the frog. One reason why the

Egyptian horses are spirited, and ready to fly like an arrow from the bow, is, that they have never been mutilated. Each animal remains through life with all the organs nature bestowed upon him. The officers caparison them very richly. Some of the saddles and accompanying trappings, holsters and other apparatus, including silver-mounted pistols, are not only beautiful, but costly.

Camels are everywhere, within and without. They are the burden-bearers for all classes. They carry heavy stones in net panniers, for walls; lime in sacks; water in skins; fuel, merchandise, and even men, women and children. Trains of from ten to thirty, tied the head of one to the tail of the other, are frequently met in narrow streets, treading as noiselessly as a cat. They are to Egypt and the deserts what railroads are in other countries. A child can manage them, when they are not under a periodical impulse,—an occurrence in which instinct forbids the recognition of the master's voice, or the terrors of a whip. One of these animals must be taken for any land expedition; for carriages are out of the question, except for a short drive, or in the vans of the transit company, from Cairo to Suez.

Most persons have extreme difficulty in finding bankers, consuls, merchants, or even the central offices of the government. There are few or no signs; and it is only by long familiarity with the narrow, crooked places where any of them reside, that they can be readily found.

Cairo is the seat of government, and therefore the focus of trade, and of every movement of interest to the traveller. He is perfectly secure there; and all his wants, and much of his curiosity, may be gratified, because there is a price for each and all. A love for money is not concealed by any one; and yet they rarely rob or steal. Whatever can be sold is disposed

of at the dearest rate for the purchaser; and they will sell themselves, if the price is forthcoming. Wages are extremely low, and taxes high; and the full weight of a wasting despotism falls upon the head of him who is unable to meet the rigorous demands of the pasha.

Being weary of ransacking the town for antiquities, I made an excursion or two for the contemplation of modern structures. The present ruler, Abbas Pasha, has a decided taste for putting up palaces. He has a retreat in the desert, towards Suez, where he retires, in extremely hot weather, for pure air. He is building a fine residence outside the wall, facing to the west, in a large walled enclosure, that already begins to have the appearance of a royal residence. Sentinels are posted at various angles, to keep the vulgar at an untainting distance. All the apartments are supposed to be both spacious and elegant. A flag is constantly floating in front. Where the lumber, sticks of timber, piles of stone, or other materials, were lying in the street, and round about the wall, sentinels, with long sticks, were keeping guard. Some of them reared up a half-moon-shaped wall, four feet high, where they squatted securely out of the way of a searching wind and sheets of sand that came off the desert. The palace faces a bare plain of hard matted gravel, on which not a spire of anything green is to be seen. It would be the finest parade-ground in the world.

A telegraphing tower is near the palace, where the old semiphoric boards are seen in action occasionally. Mohammed Ali had these towers raised throughout the entire length of his dominions, up the Nile, into Nubia, and also to the eastward, into the desert. He was apprized, at any hour of the day, of what was transpiring in the whole country. His successor has neither the energy, originality or tact, of his grandfather, and consequently every department of the government

is rapidly deteriorating. The telegraph is neglected altogether, in Upper Egypt; but between Cairo and Alexandria some show of working is maintained. The towers are round, invariably whitewashed, and placed at distances, on eminences, that give the observer a distinct view of the stations each way. Some of them stand in desolate places, perched on ledges of rocks, in bleak, exposed positions, many miles from any settlement.

A new regal residence is under way, to the south of the new mosque, on the elevated brow of the citadel, which gives a delightful, extensive, and unsurpassed view of the whole city, the river for ten or twenty miles, the plains, the pyramids of Geezeh and Sakkara, and the rich gardens towards Shoobra. The finishing lags; why the floors are not laid, no one could tell, nor does any one care. Close by is the palace, a small house, comparatively, occupied by the old conqueror, when he was at Cairo. Wherever these royal residences are seen, the traveller dwells with some new emotions on the singular provision in them all for securing the females of the family from the gaze of any one but the proprietor and the eunuchs. Their division is a prison; and their sphere of action is circumscribed by partitions, strong walls, and closely-secured windows. Private dwellings are humble imitations of the larger and richer ones, while their interior economy is conducted on the same system. Elegance is chiefly displayed in the internal finish of a house. Some, without a single outward attraction, are excessively gaudy in paint, gilding, drapery and carpets, within.

On the 10th of November, a longing desire of my boyhood — brought into intense activity by reading a history of ancient Egypt, during the long winter evenings, in a little country village — was abundantly gratified; for I not only examined all

the pyramids of Lower Egypt, but actually stood on the summit of Cheops, the highest artificial structure on the globe. Of course, it would be absurd to attempt a description of those wonders of human power. They are not of granite, as I had been led to suppose, but of a soft magnesian limestone. In very many of the enormous blocks, animal remains, of a marine origin, older than the stones themselves, are common. Several ammonites were discoverable, protruding upon the surface; and others had been cut through by the chisel of the lapidary, in quarrying them. Two of them were over two inches in diameter, and might have been detached, had a hammer been at hand. Those mighty mountains of hewn stone are just on the edge of the Libyan desert, upon a hard rock, that was levelled to receive them; and when I stood near the Sphinx, looking up to them, in the excitement of astonishment, it occurred to me that Moses, Plato, Manetho, and priests, philosophers and historians, whose names have come down to our times, may have stood upon the same spot, and raised their eyes in bewilderment to the same identical monster fabrications. When the Jews were in captivity, the pyramids were there, in their pristine greatness.

A French savan was living in a tomb, a little south-west of the Sphinx, at work upon the hieroglyphics. The national flag was flying at the top of a short pole, and he labored under its protection. It was reported that some new light had been thrown upon the chronology of Egypt; and that, instead of there having been as many dynasties and kings as generally supposed, there had been several kingdoms where tradition or historians had believed there had been but one. With that idea for a stimulus, the gentleman in the tomb was represented to be copying and studying inscriptions anew. Where he found half a dozen characters in Geezeh is a problem, as I

never saw one, save an out-of-place inscription directly over the entrance into the pyramid of Cheops, by that depredator upon the antiquities of Egypt, Dr. Lepsius, who is rightly called Cambyses, the second destroyer; whose acts of destruction and whose faithful services may have enriched the museum of his master, at Berlin, by inflicting irreparable injury to the monuments of the Pharaohs. There is something in reservation in regard to his depredations; for he should be held up to archæologists in the true light of a despoiler, whose learned dissertations are not to be received as an atonement and apology for the great injuries that mark his visitations to the temples and burial-places of ancient Egypt. Possibly there might have been a few symbolical characters on the lids of some slate-stone sarcophagi, lying on the sand, at the east of the pyramids.

Most of the land for ten miles around being flooded, the jaunt was full ten miles on the side of dikes, to reach the place so ardently desired. We met a prodigious crowd of people, young and old, male and female, going to a fair. Some were on asses, some on camels, but far the largest part on foot. All the women were bearing something on their heads, which they were carrying for sale. When they came to the canal, they waded across. The men stripped; but the women raised their one garment according to the depth, bearing the weight steadily upon their heads, and lowering the frock down as they gradually approached the opposite side.

One eye is more fashionable than two; for where there are two, one is a superfluity. No one is so extravagant as to have a couple. Both aged and youth are blind of one organ in such numbers as to call forth remark at once. Here, too, one or two front teeth were missing from the upper jaws of the Arabs. The right forefinger of all the middle-aged men was

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gone. I was assured that it had been common for mothers to put sand or lime into the right eye of their male infants, soon after birth, which effectually destroyed vision, that, when grown up, they might be disqualified for the army; it being understood that aim could not be taken with a musket, when that one was gone. Mohammed Ali, some time before his death, put a stop to the universal maiming of the fellahs, which had become infectious, by impressing a regiment of one-eyed men. This unnatural act of mothers shows in what dread they stood of the army; and how insecure was the personal liberty of the farmers, who might be driven, without a moment's notice, from their fields, their families and friends, to fight battles in which they had no interest, in a service from which there was neither promise or prospect of release. As I saw no small children who had been purposely blinded by the parents, I infer a discontinuance of the barbarous practice.

From a careful examination, I am convinced that the extreme prevalence of ophthalmia in adults is owing, in part, to the turban, there being no projecting rim to it, for a shade to the eyes, like the visor of an ordinary cap. Those who do not wear that hot, heavy head-gear, substitute the tarbousch, — a thick red felt cap, without a rim, and, consequently, admitting the strong rays of the sun directly into the eyes. Then the heated sand, reflecting the light with the intensity of a mirror, contributes to produce an irritability of the visual apparatus, which may degenerate into total blindness. Excessive negligence in not bathing the eyes, the accumulation of filth at their angles, and the irritation of winds loaded with fine dust, are direct causes. Mothers pay no attention whatever to the condition of the faces or eyes of their children; and the consequence is, they become offensively foul, and purulent discharges

are established. This observation applies particularly to the lowest condition of society, where partial or total blindness is most common. Although regarded by themselves, and the ordinary class of medical practitioners in Egypt, — who are principally good-for-nothing Italian impostors, — as infectious, I saw enough to convince me that when the disease is transmitted from one child to another, it is by the transportation of matter on the feet and probosces of flies. They swarm in Egypt beyond all other places in the world; and, notwithstanding the great amount of good they do in the general economy of nature, where their services are invaluable, they are actually, to a considerable extent, the propagators of ophthalmia. An English lady, who has resided in Alexandria many years, and is perfectly familiar with the customs of the Arabs, assured me that an opinion prevails among them that it would be disastrous to wash an infant till it is one year old; and consequently, from the hour they are ushered into existence, to the termination of twelve months, the dirty little brats are never washed. This fact, alone, would seem to lay the foundation for other as well as ophthalmic disorders. I have often watched devout Moslems perched on the rim of a water-tank, in front of mosques, preparing to enter for prayers, ingeniously bathing all round the orbits, without wetting their eyes. Even the common boatmen, in the morning, on the gunwale of the boat, will carefully wash the forehead, mouth, and concha of the ears, but never dampen their eyelids.

Alarming accounts of the sweeping desolations of the cholera in Alexandria met us in Naples, in Messina, and at Malta; but when we arrived at Alexandria, and went fearlessly into it, nothing more was heard of its terribleness. In Cairo, it was represented that cholera had been a devastating angel, at places of which Europeans have but an imperfect geographical knowl-

edge. A gentleman informed me that an army of pilgrims halted, the last season, at Damascus, to recruit a while, when the cholera broke out, and swept off nine thousand in a single day. The Arabs insist that the flesh of the goats and sheep, when the scourge rages in Syria, is poisonous, and those who eat of it are more liable than others to die of cholera.

Infantile life is very insecure: teething and small-pox sweep off thousands annually. As the government gathers no statistical information, and an impression is abroad that the collection of such facts would not be tolerated, neither the mortality of children nor adults can be determined. Through the influence of some distinguished person, a register of births and deaths was posted up on the side of the post-office in Alexandria. All the while I remained there, the same identical Arabic line remained, and my curiosity one day prompted me to have it translated. It simply stated that there had been a still-birth in the city! In Cairo, some approximation towards a registration of deaths is attempted; but whether reliance is to be placed on the municipal returns, is questionable.

That the births in Egypt are far greater than the deaths, is manifest from the visible increase of population; yet there are no inquiries or returns that give a clue to the exact annual increase. Females are prolific; and even in harems, where the theory is that few children are born, a few known facts make it certain that, even under the conditions imposed upon them there, some establishments are prosperous in that respect. Ahmet Jayer Pasha, who recently died, assured an English gentleman of my acquaintance, residing at Alexandria, that he was the father of one hundred and thirty children; and further, that he once lost thirty in one season by infantile complaints! Many parallel cases might be brought to light, were an inquiry instituted. It is extremely rare that any one, of whom the

inquiry is made, knows his age. They reckon from some memorable epoch, in ascertaining the years of a child, when asked. For example, when Artim Bey, the runaway treasurer of the pasha, made his escape with his master's money, a certain boy was one year old; and then, by ascertaining how long since that occurred, they approximate within a few months of the true period. In well-regulated families, — that is, organized as all well-to-do people conduct a family establishment, — the age of a child is probably remembered from correct data; but how or when they begin to count the months or years, I am quite uncertain, except from the Hegira.

If mention is not here made of the state of medicine and the medical school, of which such marvels have been related, — the creation of Clot Bey, — it may be forgotten. The fact is, the boasted institution has but a nominal existence. European physicians are in far better repute than any of home manufacture. Arabs and Turks may bleed, apply blisters, and otherwise torment the living; but they are miserably poor practitioners. The Italians, as before asserted, push their way in Egypt more successfully than those from any other nation, particularly in the half-fledged hospitals, dispensaries, and medical stations. They succeeded, in the beginning of Mohammed Ali's reign, in worming themselves into service; and then had the address to monopolize the quarantine departments, which were mainly established through their supple intriguing, and love for playing a part in every despotism.

Lower Egypt, and possibly the Upper, is set off into medical divisions. One Italian may have ten villages within his jurisdiction, which he visits several times a year. He takes both sides of the river, perhaps, for twenty miles; and gets a poor salary for doing nothing but making a false show of professional business. Through some extraordinary necromancy, not clearly

understood, the German physicians have dispossessed the French, who were in the ascendant under the late viceroy; but Abbas Pasha no sooner got possession of the ruling power, than he expelled Clot Bey from Egypt, and, with him, a large number of those who had assisted him in transforming Arab boys into operative surgeons for the army and navy of the pasha. The wise Clot Bey was eminently qualified to raise up an institution for teaching anatomy and medicine, if any one could; and anybody, with a grain of common sense, could have accomplished all that he did, by the sustaining assistance of unlimited power and unrestricted resources. He was accused — perhaps with some show of reason — of building up a museum of instruments, the most extensive, extraordinary, useless and expensive, in the world. When he left, in a cloud of unpopularity, with an ignorant man at the head of affairs, he succeeded in saving a fortune. He is now living on past honors and interest-money.

To return to the matter of practice: Physicians who have been consulted in the harem find the Circassian ladies have an invariable repugnance to showing their tongues, or exposing their wrists for the pulse; nor are they willing a medical man should enter their sacred apartment, except under the most urgent circumstances. In my future prelections on the way and manner of practising medicine in Turkey, it will be found that quackery is admirably sustained there; and, further, that old women are in higher request, in chronic diseases, than the most eminent in the profession.

A word more of the pyramids of Geezeh. I ranged about them, looked at the Sphinx in what there is left of its face; and, while raising my wondering optics to the amazing mass of hewn stone, — the oldest monuments of human hands on the globe, — two gray foxes, or jackals, — it was not easily determined which, — came out from between the stones, about two

hundred feet up, and, discovering strangers, popped their heads in again and skulked away.

There is a vast region to be explored to the east of the pyramid of Cheops, about the Sphinx, and Campbell's tomb. No doubt the ledge of limestone rock is excavated extensively; and mummy-pits, complicated in structure, containing stone coffins, and thousands of human bodies, now concealed by the accumulated sand-drifts of ages, will hereafter be removed, and discoveries quite as extraordinary as any yet made in the land of the Pharaohs will reward the industry of those who engage in the research. The fore-paws of the Sphinx are reputed to have a temple between them; and even the body, buried to the depth of a hundred feet or more, may itself prove to be a treasure of incalculable interest to antiquarians.

It is the common impression that the Sphinx was a portion of the ledge on which the pyramids stand. Although we were unable to ascend to the head, on account of its height, — the face of which is shockingly mutilated, — that part has the appearance of being constructed of several artificial layers of stone, admirably fitted together.

One of the naked, supple Arab guides insisted upon having a shilling to ascend the second large pyramid, the apex of which is covered by a smooth cement, that formerly covered the whole, but which was stripped off, for aught we know, three

thousand years ago. I have no words to express my feelings of astonishment at what the old Egyptians accomplished. If there were no pyramids at all, the ranges of tombs at the back, or, rather, western side of the great one, would have been sufficient to have established their mechanical fame and artistical taste, independently of the skill of the unknown constructors. The vast dimensions of individual stones in the rows of apartments, scarcely mentioned in books of travel; the nicety of the plan; the imposing character of the fronts, that appear to have once loomed up on the edge of the Desert of Libya, in which the illustrious dead were laid, near to the royal sepulchres, — for such the pyramids must have been, — have no parallel in the world.

On approaching the base of Cheops, a dozen or more guides clamorously presented themselves, and each wanted the job of escorting us to the top and interior. The sheik of the district — a sober, hard-featured Arab, whose skin, without a wrinkle, had the appearance of being baked to the bones — asked a fee for allowing us to ascend. The chattering rascals, as they afterwards proved, struck for backshiesh, which they could not get. They exaggerated the difficulty of going up, — a tedious process, to be sure, on account of the high step from one tier to the next, the blocks being near a yard thick. When the prices had been agreed upon, three Arabs took me, one at each hand, and the third behind. While lifting a foot to begin a step, they hoisted me up in a jiffy, and then up the next, and so on, at a speed that was never experienced before in going up-hill. Just before reaching the apex, — a frightful altitude to look from, — my hat blew off. One of the nude racers sprang for it down towards the Sphinx, faster than some run on level ground, and overtook it, borne off as it was by a triumphant gust of wind.

An English sixpence paid that; but at every step, all three begged lustily. When a bargain has been fully and honorably sustained, and every farthing paid, according to a stipulation, if backshiesh is not given an Arab, he feels abused and maltreated. It matters not who it is, — from a general to a donkey-boy, — the everlasting, hateful word backshiesh is bellowed in our ears. When fairly on the level space, — perhaps forty feet square, — giving abundant evidence, by the loose blocks lying promiscuously about, that the structure once went higher, — no doubt to a point, — they all clamored again for backshiesh. They said the old sheik, when we were gone, would take away nearly all we were to give them. The descent was accomplished without assistance, but attended with prodigious fatigue, aggravated by the possibility of making a misstep, and rolling over and over to the bottom, where the rollee would find himself mulled into jelly.

In Herschel's Astronomy occurs the following:

"At the date of the erection of the great pyramid of Geezeh, which precedes by 3970 years (say 4000) the present epoch, the longitudes of all the stars were less, by 55° 45′, than at present. Calculating, from this datum, the place of the pole of the heavens among the stars, it will be found to fall near α Draconis; its distance from that star being 3° 44′ 25″. This being the most conspicuous star in the immediate neighborhood, was therefore the pole-star at the epoch. And the latitude of Geezeh being just 30° north, and, consequently, the altitude of the north pole there also 30°, it follows that the star in question must have had, at its lower culmination, at Geezeh, an altitude of 26° 15′ 35″. Now, it is a remarkable fact, ascertained by the late researches of Col. Vyse, that, of the nine pyramids still existing, all have narrow passages, by which alone they can be entered (all which open out on the northern faces of

their respective pyramids), inclined to the horizon, downward, at angles as follows, in three of them:

Pyramid of Cheops, ...	26° 41′.
Pyramid of Cephren, ...	25° 55′.
Pyramid of Mycerinus, ...	26° 02′.

Of the two pyramids at Abousseir, also, which alone exist in a state of sufficient preservation to admit of the inclinations of their entrance passages being determined, one has the angle 27° 5′, the other, 20°.

"At the bottom of every one of these passages, therefore, the then *pole* star must have been visible at its lower culmination; —a circumstance which can hardly be supposed to have been unintentional, and was doubtless connected (perhaps superstitiously) with astronomical observations of that star, of whose proximity to the pole at the epoch of the erection of those wonderful structures, we are thus furnished with a monumental record, of the most imperishable nature."

Having completed our explorations of the pyramids, and sufficiently gazed on the surrounding scenery,—for there were the green fields and the river between us and Cairo, and a grand view from the lofty elevation of Cheops, both up and down the great valley, and far over the slender minarets, quite into the arid desert of Arabia,—we made preparations for a departure. The donkeys, with their drivers, were waiting, half a mile distant, in a shady spot, on the margin of the sand. I made several attempts to walk behind the pyramid of Cephren, and further back, to the third one, smaller still; but some one of the Arabs would invariably pop in upon me, and solicit backshiesh. At length I signified, by unmistakable gesticulations, to the most importunate of the company, something about blowing his brains out if he did not keep out of my sight, which

had the happy effect of leaving me by myself, for contemplation. He declared it was the pasha's order that no travellers should be left alone; and, besides, he undertook to frighten me with the possibility of being carried off into the desert by the Bedouins, who sometimes rushed down over the sand-swells beyond, and secured their prey.

Such was the condition of the canals, in all directions, — being full of water, — that the ride was very circuitous, on the tops of the dikes. We could not get nearer than a mile and a half of the pyramids, in consequence of a break in one of the cross dikes, over which a clumsy bridge appeared to have recently fallen. A rude, dirty, heavy boat, fortunately, was near where we left the donkeys. It was something of an effort to bargain with the fellow at the helm, who saw our condition, and was disposed to take every advantage of it, to extort a price. We utterly refused to comply with his terms once, and thought of returning to Cairo, and approaching the pyramids by a higher route; and off he sailed. Our indifference, in appearance, probably suggested to his mind that a moderate fee was better than none; so back he came, and we embarked. The sail was over flooded fields, where the water was extremely shallow; and several times the punt grounded. When poles and oars could not move it, over they jumped into liquid mud, and forced it out of the adhesive bed with their shoulders. A fellow — wild, fierce, stout, and of a bronze hue — swam off to us from quite a distance, and begged to be a guide. When all the company were in readiness, and the visitation of the pyramids over, we hurried back to the boat, the rabble of noisy, begging, all but naked Arabs of two villages following, beseeching for backshiesh, whether they had been employed or not; and even those who had been paid for their services were quite as annoying as others. It was with extreme difficulty that the

old hulk of a boat was forced through the mud and swift currents, — where the water rushed through breaches in the dikes, from a higher level, — and other obstructions, to where the patient asses stood in waiting. The ride, towards evening, back to the river, was delightful, where we crossed a miserable ferry, over to Old Cairo. There is no wharf or landing on either side; and the crowd of boats, of all sizes, laden with people, cattle and donkeys, is astonishing. When a person is seen who looks as though he wished to cross, every boatman rushes for a customer; and the cheapest, as a general rule, gets the job, — though the appearance of the boat has some weight. The river is exceedingly swift at the ford, — boiling like a pot, at different points, and surging along by the soft bank with the spirit of the Mississippi at its junction with the Ohio. The boat was brought as near as it could be, and we sprang out upon a palm-tree log, resembling a monstrous cabbage-stump. Down came the donkeys next. If they manifest reluctance, — as they always do, — they are forced in or out, without apology. In any other country on earth, it would be considered the height of temerity to attempt crossing a river of such magnitude in conveyances so frail as some of the boats appear, and invariably laden with human beings to the utmost capacity of stowage. With a torn sail, oars of spliced poles, and pipes in their mouths, the active aquarians soon strike the opposite shore in safety.

The little obstinate donkeys were now urged to the top of their speed, lest the gates should be closed before we could reach the wall. The drivers run from morning till night, thumping and pricking the animals every few steps, keeping up without apparent fatigue. I have known a driver stop on the way, to drink a cup of coffee, and, perhaps, afterwards, smoke a pipe, while the donkeys were going off at a satisfac-

tory speed, trotting and galloping alternately; and yet he would come on, running in a hotter sun than we have in July, without any appearance of unusual exertion or fatigue. They fare poorly, — breakfasting on a loaf of soft millet bread, and drinking water. They rarely taste meat; and the only stimulus they ever indulge in is a small cup of coffee, the size of half an egg-shell, made thick as chocolate, and without sugar or milk. My observations on this class of men have convinced me that the coarser the diet, and the more actively the muscles are employed, the freer they are from organic derangements, from chronic affections, and the liability to acute diseases.

We finally concluded a negotiation with the father of the reis who brought us from Alexandria, for the same boat and crew, for a voyage to Upper Egypt. He was a noble-looking Arab, and seemed too young to be the father of the captain with whom we had been sailing. He said he had two wives, and that he owned several boats; and, for intelligence, activity and general appearance, he very much surpassed his son, reis Abuzeds, of whom there is more to be related. A written bargain was entered into, and a part of the money paid in advance. When he called at our lodgings, he squatted on the floor, leaving his shoes at the door. At the vice-consul's office, where the contract was drawn up, read to him, and interpreted to us, witnesses were called to affix their signets; and he pressed on the seal of his big ring, moistened with ink, each party taking a copy.

While our supplies were collecting, — charcoal, a cooking apparatus, pots, pans, bottles, flour, sugar, coffee, dates, rice, plates, coffee-pot, tea-cups, filtering-jar, pepper, salt, and a hundred such kind of articles as make up a house-keeping stock, besides various kinds of vegetables, fresh meats, and poultry,

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— we again ransacked the city of Cairo, that nothing worth seeing should be left unseen.

One day was set apart for the bazaars. I defy any one to convey a true idea of the appearance of an Arab store, or its contents. It is, in the first place, so very small, that it would seem beneath the ambition of a boy ten years of age to be engaged in such trifling business, where a capital, in thousands of instances, cannot exceed one hundred dollars. All the saddlers and saddlery are in a street by themselves; so it is with tinmen and copper-dish manufacturers. They have a peculiar love for copper vessels. Nearly all the kitchen furniture is of copper. In the coffee-shops, every pot and can is of copper, and black and filthy beyond endurance to my eyes. Calico-dealers, blanket-dealers, overcoat-makers, tailors, &c. &c., beyond recollection or enumeration, are congregated together. There is, therefore, one advantage in the arrangement, that it is known precisely where to go for anything that is for sale. I even saw shops where broken crockery was mended. It was amusing to watch the industry of a chap, with pincers, in a great turban, seated in the centre of a pile of broken dishes, matching two pieces of different colors. A pudding-dish, when repaired, might be half blue on one side, and white on the other. Shoemakers are immensely numerous; but they are tolerated, not unfrequently, in a recess in a street, under an awning, or on a mat against a wall, and in door-ways. Barbers spread mats on the ground, in the bright sunshine, and drive a flourishing trade in the squares and Frank-street. Every Moslem has his head shaven as often as he can afford it. It is enjoined, has reference to cleanliness, prevents the nestling of vermin, and, lastly, it is a luxury. No lather, or soap, in any form, is ever used. Squatted on the mat, the operator wets his own hand in a basin of water, and rubs the stiff bristles he proposes to cut

off. The razor is a heavy stubb-blade, two inches and a half long, in a wooden handle, like a shoe-knife. Yet they are expert, and in a surprisingly short time have the whole head smooth as an ivory ball. There are a plenty of barber-shops, — dark, greasy rooms, opening on the street, with benches running round the sides, on which customers sit. There is no fixed price, — every one paying just what he conceives the process to be worth; and no questions are asked, nor any grumblings heard that it is not enough. One long lock, on the top of the crown, is left, for the prophet to hoist them by into paradise.

We took a look into a Greek church, at the urgent solicitation of an oily Syrian, acting as deputy for the American vice-consul, who was at Damietta, about his own business, instead of that which he was, by virtue of his office, appointed to conduct. It was a shabby affair, bearing considerable resemblance to ordinary Catholic churches, but inferior in workmanship; and the saints, by dozens, with unpronouncable names, looked as though they were painted with a birch broom, and gilded with sheet-brass. It was a trick to sponge something for the priest, who could not be expected to leave his sanctimonious employments, to gratify heretics from the New World, without backshiesh, — a word that made me boil over with wrath whenever uttered, since it was in everybody's mouth. In the course of this diary, I shall have occasion to refer to this assistant to the United States vice-consul again, as through his dishonesty we suffered both a loss of time and money.

One morning we met a long procession of dirty, boisterous children, a part, if not the whole of them, howling like devils, and followed by groups of veiled women. No one of whom we inquired could explain the meaning of it. About the same time, I was accosted by a woman, with an infant in

her arms, begging money to put at interest for her child when she was married, — a common custom. It may be observed here, that there are no old maids in Egypt: every one is sure to have a turn at matrimony. Divorces, however, are more frequent than summer showers. Sometimes the wife, but more frequently the husband, seeks a separation, on the most frivolous pretexts. When a man has four wives, he does not hesitate long when he wishes to lessen his household. Although a common man has been frequently known to divorce four wives in a single year, and even more, it creates no kind of surprise. Of marriage, divorces, the harem, the economy of every-day life in the family, and the customs and institutions of the Coptic church, I shall have occasion to speak hereafter.

We passed an enclosure where I saw a tall, splendid giraffe, just arrived from an undefined region on the Upper Nile, the property of the pasha. I also passed another yard, belonging to his highness, where a very stout, heavy ostrich was walking about the premises. They were none the less curious for being seen on the continent where they are natives. No one seemed to know or have any idea of where they came from, beyond the common notion that whatever is unaccountable or mysterious in animal organization comes down the Nile. When I inquired where the dancing-girls came from, the answer was precisely the same, — from down the Nile. Now, as they were neither Arabs, Copts, Berbers, or Africans, the question was one worth solving, both in a physiological and ethnological view, since they are more numerous than giraffes or ostriches. They resemble the Gypsies of England, and the Malays. This will come under consideration again.

We often passed shops, in the bazaars, in which the enterprising proprietor was fast asleep on a rug; others were left entirely alone, — a simple gauze curtain being let down in

front; — a dish with money in plain sight, and goods of various colors and value, were within one foot of the fingers of a passer-by, yet a theft of them would be without precedent. Some shopkeepers were at their devotions. In the midst of the busy crowd of strangers, when the hour of prayer arrives, the conscientious Mussulman rises from his cushion, faces the holy city of Mecca, and goes through all the prescribed ceremonies of bowing, touching his forehead to the floor, and repeating, with a rapid articulation, the prayers enjoined on all true believers. Whole streets of shopkeepers were smoking at once. I called at an opium-smoking room, one evening, with a hope of finding a customer under the influence of that drug; but no one exhibited a frenzied condition of exaltation, and I returned to my lodgings disappointed.

While the boat was being made ready, we continued our explorations. One day we paid a visit to the madhouse; afterwards to the court of the cadi, to the police, and to one or two of the most celebrated of the mosques.

Near our lodgings there was quite a large yard, entered from a narrow street, through a wide gateway, which, every morning, was usually filled by Arabs, boys, some Jews, a few Copts, — sometimes women, veiled, though barefoot, and covered by a single blue cotton frock, something after the pattern of a farmer's. Policemen, in blue frock-coats, with a row of brass cartridge-cases on each breast, a long sword, pistols in a sash, a red cap, and Christian pantaloons, or Greek breeches, big enough to hold ten bushels of grain, were numerous. One morning we called in upon the magistrate. To get at him, we entered the yard, and ascended a flight of steps to the second story of a low building, which had a single room, long and narrow. On the longest side, running the entire length, was a bench, under the name of divan. About the centre of it sat the judge,

cross-legged, in his stocking-feet, writing on his knee. He was a very handsome man, of about fifty. His inquiry was, what was wanted. The dragoman was instructed to inform him that we were Americans, who had called to pay their respects to him, and to witness the legal processes of his court, to compare them with those of our own and other countries. He received us with much cordiality, graciously had chairs brought in, — a luxury hardly to be found in Egypt, except in the residences of Europeans, — and then made some inquiries in regard to our health, &c. He had no cases then before him; but his honor said he had just finished two; that four witnesses were necessary, and then, again, something about two being sufficient for a conviction. Perhaps I did not clearly understand Hassan's interpretation. Word may have been passed along to another office that strangers were present, as, speedily, a large, fine, tall Turk, of between fifty and sixty, dressed in a blue frock and pantaloons, — the prefect of police, — walked in; and we were given to understand that he was a distinguished personage. A long pipe was passed round for a whiff, and coffee brought to us in little cups set in brass baskets; it was black, thick, and strong. Our intentions with regard to the route we proposed were asked, and some civil observations made about the security of travellers under Abbas Pasha. Both the judge and himself were the best-looking, most intelligent and well-bred officers we were brought in contact with in the city of Cairo. All the menials hovered upon our flank, on retiring, for backshiesh, which was distributed, according to usage, at the portals of Egyptian justice.

We now directed our steps to the highest court in the land, that of the kadi, who holds his appointment from the sultan of Turkey, and always comes from Constantinople. We were subjected to a fatiguing walk, before the great tribunal was

found. It was in Cairo; but in what street, or section of the city, it is impossible to decide. Passing through a rough gateway, we entered a square yard, — containing, perhaps, a quarter of an acre, — in which Arabs, Turks, Armenians, Jews and negroes, were sitting and walking. There were some fine horses, elegantly caparisoned, held by bare-legged servants; and a multitude of official-looking personages, with bright brass inkstands in their girdles. Fronting the west, on the eastern side of the yard, was an old, rickety, two-story building, with an open, wide balcony, protecting those near the edge from falling, head-first, into the square. A flight of steps led up to the first, where a group of fine, well-dressed Arabs were behind a slight railing, intensely occupied in writing on their knees, — in all cases their desk. Both men and women were coming and going, and holding earnest conversation with them. They were attorneys-at-law. Instead of having possession of the centre of the court-room, in front of the judge, as with us, they were actually kept at a respectful distance, outside the door, and not permitted to enter at all.

While musing on the scene around us, we noticed, coming down stairs that led into the interior, an aged Turk, of small stature, gray beard, somewhat round-shouldered, and stooping. He was accompanied by persons in fine clothes, with pistols, swords, and various indications of consequence. This was the kadi, — the chief justice, — who has the reputation of dispensing law to suit the party which is best able to purchase a decision satisfactory to themselves. We stood aside, to give him room to pass; but, seeing infidels, he stopped short, and inquired who we were. Being informed that we were Americans, from a country beyond the *Ingleese*, he seemed to comprehend, at least, that we had come from a great distance. He expressed profound regret that he had that moment been

summoned to the palace by Abbas Pasha, but invited us warmly to pass into the court and take coffee. Respectful salaams were mutually exchanged, and the old man proceeded down to the yard, where he was assisted to mount a noble-spirited horse, and his company sprang upon the saddle of others; and, his horse being led by the bit, by a groom, we saw the kadi, with his retinue, pass out at the gate, and have never seen him since.

The principal apartment, or court-room, to which we groped our way, had a bench against the wall, covered by a cushion, on which his worship probably sat, in hearing and determining causes. In adjoining rooms there were dozens of clerks, writing in large blank books, loosely bound, which had accumulated in piles on the floor. All sat squat on the floor, writing on their knees, with a reed instead of a quill, the ink being thick as oil-paint.

There were processions, funerals, suddenly-moving crowds, straggling files of women wailing, marriage ceremonies, and jugglers, with their audiences of wondering gazers, and the like incidents of a large city, perpetually occurring, the chronicling of which would be an endless undertaking, but which were, nevertheless, always new, curious, and sometimes very surprising. One feature in Cairo, Alexandria, and, in fact, throughout Egypt, puts to shame the state of public morals in the cities of Europe and America. There are no lewd, night-walking women, no dance-houses, no drinking-shops, in which the abandoned of both sexes are to be seen, nor the slightest deviations from a most strict and thorough observance of all the proprieties of life. Of what there is beyond the walls of the harem, and of the social relations of the family, among the rich and poor, the high and low, in town and country, it will be no easy task to ascertain.

DAILY JOURNAL FROM CAIRO TO PHILÆ, THROUGH UPPER EGYPT.

Nov. 14th, 1850. *Thursday.* — By eight o'clock this morning, we left our lodgings in Cairo, bag and baggage, forming, to any eye but an Egyptian's, a ludicrous and really grotesque cavalcade. A horse carried the trunks, strapped and bound as firmly as though they were to be transported in that way round the globe. The donkey-drivers had their shirt-bosoms stuffed with small affairs, such as a bottle of ink, a pair of slippers, and their own luncheon of native bread, — resembling a foot square of sole-leather, ready for the lap-stone. In good season, and without cracking a tea-cup, our property, with ourselves, arrived safely at Boulac, — that busy, dusty, dirty section of the river-bank, where all the boats are moored, and where goods are debarked, and Arabs smoke, eat, drink and bargain, at the same breath. There lay the boat, without a name, which brought us from Alexandria. By the letter of the contract, it was to be sunk before we went on board, to kill the vermin; but, as there were rats under the floor the first day, they probably had an inkling of the murderous intentions of the owner, and prudently went on shore as the water came in.

It was eleven o'clock before getting under way, in consequence of the non-arrival of a part of the crew, who had gone for a batch of bread, — something the Nile sailors talk about incessantly, when preparing for a voyage. A stern pole had to be rigged, for holding the American flag; and some other small fixtures were added. Just as the painter was to be hauled in, the old proprietor announced that we must purchase a stick for each man to fight with, in case of an attack. Believing he had them to sell, perhaps for the twentieth time, — for whoever purchased would, of course, leave them behind, —

and assuring him that we should always do all the fighting,—a pastime in which travellers from the New World gloried,—he reluctantly let go; and, at the same instant, a soft breeze swept us out into the stream, and the boat sped on her way, by the beautiful island of Rhoda, and the large palaces dotting its placid surface, in the possession of the offshoots of Mohammed Ali. Whatever is worth possessing as a residence was exclusively monopolized by the old regenerator, and has since come into the possession of his children or grandchildren.

A few miles up, on the right hand, was a broad, two-story building, with an immense enclosure of ground towards the water, called the Sailor Hospital. Nearly opposite, on the east bank, upon an elevated ridge of limestone, were forty-five windmills, with their arms flying round merrily, close to the encroaching sand of the desert. On this island was the celebrated Nilometer,—a square well, in which was a graduated pillar, for giving the rise and fall of the river. Nothing of either can now be identified; yet tourists tax their imaginations exceedingly, when near where it may have been, because it is an epoch to have seen a contrivance that is referred to a Pharaonic age; when, in reality, the last one recorded to have been consulted by the people was placed there by Caliph Mamóon, in A. D. 833.

The old pasha had a fine garden on the island of Rhoda; and, when I strolled over it, the oranges, raised on a tumulus, were of the most delicious flavor, and abundant. The attendants are ready to fill a gentleman's pockets, notwithstanding the owner's orders never to pluck one, provided they can raise the backshiesh. It was on the side of this lonely island that one tradition says the infant Moses was picked up, as he came floating unconsciously along, in a frail ark of bulrushes, when discovered by the princess Thermuthis, the daughter of the

king. Reference has already been made to another current tradition, which fixes upon Boulac as the place where the great Jewish lawgiver was saved. When the Greeks had a controlling power in Egypt, a bridge of boats connected Rhoda with where Fostat stood. The only mode of going there now is to hire a small boat to ferry across. The one I went in was managed by a man and boy. Although without a cabin, or an awning overhead, his one wife and child lived there. She amused herself by hunting vermin on the little brat's body, and throwing them into the Nile, while the owner was setting us howadjis through the current.

At four o'clock this morning, the call to prayers from the minarets in Cairo was simultaneous, and resounded in the distance like the dying tone of a hundred bells. In passing Old Cairo, sailing up stream, we were curious to watch if the muezzin was punctual at twelve o'clock, as he should be, according to the directions of the prophet; but no one appeared. This was in accordance with previous observation, that, in cities, the faithful have no certain hour for devotions, after the morning prayers. I have often seen a pious Moslem at his devotions when most convenient, without reference to a specific period.

The street of mud hovels we passed through, just south of Boulac, was so pregnant with human misery and degradation, that the recollection of what I saw there has haunted me ever since. The walls were of mud, covered with brush, millet-stalks and straw. The doors were not over four feet high; and within, there were, in some of them, three little apartments, dark and cheerless. Goats, fowls, and a squadron of the most filthy, unlovable children ever seen, were crawling in and out, without interruption.

Passed the carcass of some large animal, that was aground

in shallow water, tugging away at which was a poor, starved, mangy dog, and two bold, ravenous vultures, contending for the prize. Not far off were nine envious crows, as spectators. Passed a forest of date-trees, standing on a fertile spot between the river and Sakhara. At this latter place there are pyramids; some in good condition for resisting the assaults of time six thousand years to come, while others have actually decomposed, and crumbled down into the form of an ash-heap. Passed the site of ancient Memphis. A particular visitation will enable me to detail the present condition of that once all-glorious city, where there is now but one single, solitary hut, under the shade of a palm-tree, in front of which is the colossal statue of Rameses II., forty-two feet in length, lying partly on its face. Here and there we saw a block of red polished granite, a piece of marble, and other remains of temples and palaces, whose locality cannot be designated, but which were the admiration of generations of men who supposed, perhaps, that they were destined to endure while the earth lasted. Such is the mutability of the works of man. On the right hand, the land is evidently making pretty fast, which crowds the river over, to gully out the opposite bank. We saw lots of Arab girls bathing, while some were walking on the bank, as their ancestors were accustomed to do, and, no doubt, in the same place; — for Memphis, the great city, must have stretched from the Libyan desert quite down to the water. Green fields of Indian corn were common. Directly opposite, on the left or eastern shore, we could see a multitude of caves and doorways, of various shapes, leading into the limestone rocks. Roasted ears of Indian corn are offered, on nearing the bank. In Cairo, a para would buy five ears; and five paras are only equal to one cent. Saw from the deck a large cavalcade of asses, camels, sheep and men; also a group of large, dark-colored tents, looking

as if made by stretching a sheet upon the tops of stakes. The conclusion was that a fair was being held, for people were running all in one direction. Saw an enormous pile of beans on the ground, — a modern pyramid. They are an important crop in Egypt.

Nov. 15th. Friday. — It was agreed that I should look at the compass occasionally, through the night, to ascertain whether the reis would attempt to prolong the trip unnecessarily, by drifting back when he supposed his passengers asleep; — an old trick, of which Nile contractors are frequently guilty. Once only I examined the dial. There was a tolerable breeze, that lasted till daylight, when it died away; and at two o'clock, P. M., the crew were pulling very slowly at the tow-line. Hassan was quite sick in the forenoon, but a little timely medical attention restored him. On the left, as we ascended, there was a continuous range of hills, broken down at intervals, as though blown away; while the prominences, flat on the top, gave them a castellated appearance, in the distance. The sand came down nearly to the running water on our course, to-day, on that side. A second row of terraced hills, still further off, in the distant back-ground, in the Arabian desert, had a grand effect; it was like the rich shading of a picture. On the right, the strip of arable land was estimated to be between eight and ten miles wide, before reaching the sand-drifts.

Passed the last pyramid, standing off in a field. We have successively seen those of Geezeh, Abooseer, Sakkara and Dashóor. This last is quite different from all others, being in offsets, or terraces, of whitish stone, erected upon a rock, apparently, considerably above the common land-level. Passed a large drove of camels, and saw prodigious numbers browsing in a coarse grass-field. This was the first opportunity had for seeing those ugly-formed monsters at their ease, without mas-

ters. A shepherd came to the river, followed, from a distant feeding-ground, by a very large flock of sheep, to be washed. They nestled close to his heels, and it was delightful to notice their confidence in him. Wherever he turned, they moved also, and strove for the nearest place to his person. It was a patriarchal exhibition of instinctive reliance on man, never witnessed in our own country. Went quite near a little fleet of small boats, moored, in which the all but naked occupants — grave Arabs, in huge turbans — were spinning on hand-distaffs, mending nets and braiding rope. I have repeatedly seen men spinning in that manner, at Alexandria and Cairo, and in villages; but have no recollection of having seen a woman pursuing that appropriate employment.

Very many Arab girls came down to the river, towards evening, — as they do also in the morning, — bearing heavy earthen jars on their heads, for water. It must be the general pursuit of the fellah females, from the universality of the practice. They may be seen pursuing their way, with a full jar, more than a mile off, going to their homes. The vessel weighs quite as much as the contents. They rarely spill a drop, never stumble, yet barely touch the jar, from time to time, with one hand. Most of the females in the towns evidently idle away their lives, by lying about in the dust, on the shady sides of their huts, with the children and hens. Mr. Warren landed, and followed the bank, with a gun, for game, but had better success in buying fish. Twenty-one, freshly caught, with sparkling scales, cost but one cent and a half of our currency. Came up where naked boys were fishing, and about as many females looking on, unconcerned, beyond the success of the bronzed bipeds before us. A large cargo of peas passed, in bulk, — the uncovered mass being inhabited by a bevy of women, barefooted, wearing a single blue garment, with veiled faces. They

must be particularly partial to aquatic excursions, such numbers of them are all the while traversing one way or the other. No fruit-trees seen thus far, with the exception of tall dates. These are ordinarily described as graceful, with their plumed tops waving in the zephyrs; to me they appear like gigantic cabbage-stumps, just budding. The date-palm is precisely fitted to the climates where it thrives; but it must be a poetical vagary to represent it as beautiful, compared with the finely-proportioned trunks and velvet foliage of a hundred varieties of fruit and forest trees in Europe and America. At Alexandria they have excellent grapes, and luscious oranges and bananas; but they are brought from near Rosetta. In the bazaars of Cairo, it was common to see apples, pears and pomegranates; but we could not ascertain very clearly where they grew. They were too dear to be eaten by the common people, who have nothing more than is absolutely necessary for sustaining life, and, therefore, rarely indulge in the luxury of foreign fruit. Our stock of fruit — such as oranges, pomegranates and melons — was found to be extremely grateful in topping off a Nile dinner, cooked as it was for us.

Nov. 16th. Saturday. — No wind, and, therefore, reluctantly compelled to pin fast to the bank, all last night. It was a lovely evening, so balmy was the air; and therefore very much enjoyed, anxious as we were to be progressing. Such magnificent light I had never seen before. The stars, those gems of the sky, hung low in the heavens, sparkling with a transcendant brilliancy nowhere else discoverable on the globe. This Nilotic valley is the paradise of wild geese, flying and huddling together at pleasure, without the fear of turbans, although they certainly are shy of hats and caps. They discriminate between the races. While the latter molest and destroy them, the former have not the means, being rarely in possession of fire-arms, if

they have a bird-slaughtering disposition. No one can have a gun in Upper Egypt, without a license; which no farmer could procure, if he were ambitious in that line, for the want of money. Birds of all plumage, among which are both turtle and common doves, are perpetually frolicking in undisturbed freedom. In the stillness of the night we often heard the sound of falling masses of mud from the perpendicular banks. The alluvial, unctuous mud, under a hot sun, cracks into very curious geometrical figures, which sway off from the perpendicular, next the water, and by and by fall over. When walking on the monstrous beds cracked into that form, it brought to mind the pavement of the Giant's Causeway, in Ireland. If intense heat were applied while in the columnar condition which the mud, in drying, invariably takes, precisely the same result would be produced that Nature effected when she manufactured that singular arrangement of rocky pillars on the Emerald Isle.

We frequently discovered, to-day, on the desert of Arabia, peculiar forms of limestone, which, in the distance, perfectly resembled the pyramids. They are of older date. Thousands of years must have been required for those mountains to have decomposed on their outside, and to have been fashioned as they are by the elements. The thought that the architects of the pyramids took a hint from these extraordinary geological monuments of the physical changes wrought on the earth's surface passed through the mind. They resist the moving sands, when the winds urge them towards the river. Some of the accumulations at the base of these natural pyramids are enormously large, rising into prominences, and scooped out into valleys, which may be changed by a shift of wind to other forms, no less striking.

This morning, a new variety of crow was flying about the cultivated fields, having black wings, a black head, a leaden-

colored bill, wide at the root, and rather disproportioned to the size of the bird. All the remaining feathers were fawn-colored; but their voice, or croak, was identical with the black crow of New England. They were in no fear whatever of Arabs,—lighting down close to them, as they were tugging at the boat. Where the sand or green crops extend quite to the water, there the crows abound.

By three hours after sundown, the nights were quite chilly; but through the day there was a little more than the summer heat of Naples, or of America in the latitude of Virginia. Towards morning it was, occasionally, decidedly cold. The Arabs lie down in their coarse hooded bournouses—which are analogous to cloaks—on the deck, never undressing; and sleep refreshingly, and, probably, warmly, as they make no complaint. Current of the river very swift and strong, where we were sailing. Rats were belaboring the partitions again; the sound, in the stillness of the night, being something like boring a hard board with an auger. Our stipulation to have the boat sunk was of no avail, since, if the vermin were forced out, others have come in their place, by being alongside of other craft. Ali was asked if he saw any rats drowned when the submersion took place. "O, yes," he answered, in an animated voice, "me see two, nine, twenty." Such depredations were made upon the store of rice, that it was beginning to be alarming. It is a serious matter to be out of eatables, where they cannot be replaced.

Arrived at Benisooef, where a governor resides. A road leads off to the Fyoom, a fertile locality in the Libyan Desert. A brick pyramid, in ruins, stands where a glimpse may be had of it. Benisooef is a large town, and has the reputation of being an impudent one to Christian travellers; but we were treated civilly. It is a dirty, dusty spot, built on heaps of rub-

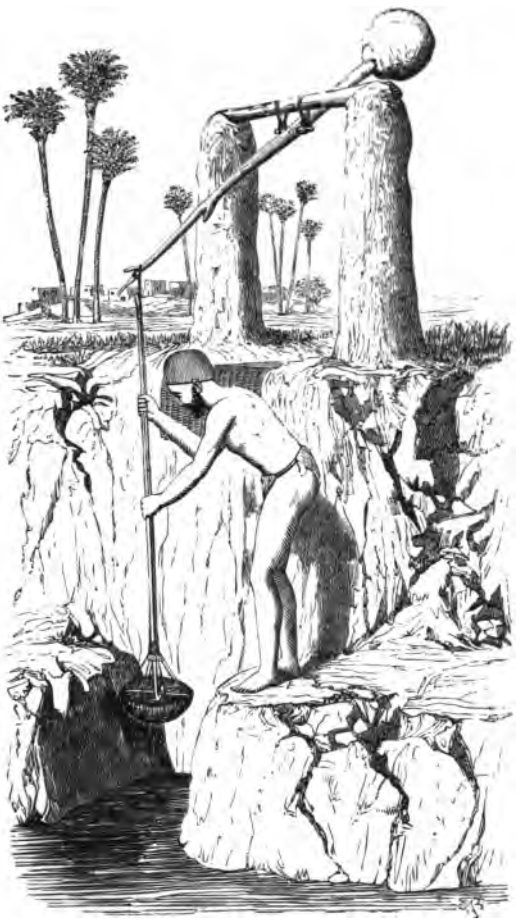
bish. Once it supplied all Egypt with linen; now it could not furnish enough for a whole shirt. At a distance, it has a grand appearance; but the inviting aspect melts into air, on approaching it. About sundown our boat came up gallantly towards the town; and, from the stir of men and women running near the river, we judged some sensation was raised. However, the movement proved transitory, when they discovered we were howadjis. A band of musicians was performing, at a few rods' distance from the landing, a barbarous air, — or no air at all. Their instruments were neither in tune with each other, nor did they play in harmony. It was a shocking noise for any ears save their own. A broader farce could not have been represented on a stage.

Nov. 17th. Sunday. — Hassan had a relapse, which rendered an emetic indispensable, which he swallowed, from time to time, saying "Tank you" at the close of each draught of the nauseous preparation. Arabs are fond of medicine; the flavor is not of the least importance; and, what is still more extraordinary, when in fine health they are quite gratified to take doses, let the operation be what it may. It is a pleasure to prescribe for such patients.

At an early hour I walked to an immense mound at one side of the town, — the accumulation of centuries upon centuries, marking the site of more ancient dwellings, — from whence there was a satisfactory view of Benisooef, which had been passed. Upon the acknowledged principle that distance lends enchantment to the view, the mud residences, and even the attempt at a fine house, dubbed a palace, in which the governor, with his numerous household, were lodged, appeared beautifully when six miles from them. Neither conveniences nor comforts, in our sense, were to be had in the pashalic. None of the streets exceeded five feet in width, while many were

narrowed down to three. Reeds were laid overhead, from one side to the other, to exclude the sun and intense light of midday. Scores of females, veiled with coarse cotton stuff, suspended by a heavy brass chain of ferrules from a strap across the head, were squatting by the sides of piles of soft bread, which they had for sale. Others were cooking, in earthen pots, over a handful of charcoal; while many more had baskets of fine smoking-tobacco. Still further on, in some of the narrow, crooked lanes, were little niches in the walls, where grave, cross-legged merchants had some cheap calico, a few darning-needles, pieces of braid, and thread. Meats, fruits and tobacco, were sold by weight, as they should be; but, instead of weights, representing ounces, pounds, or okes, they were simple stones, of different sizes, which were recognized by the citizens as lawful.

Back of the town, on a low plain, a company of cavalry was exercising and firing, quite spiritedly. A modern edifice, of small dimensions, having glass windows, near the river, was one of Mohammed Ali's resting-places. Shadoofs were very numerous on each side. It is an exceedingly laborious exercise, and monotonous employment, to raise the water to successive levels, by their rude apparatus. Half of all that is brought up in the bucket spills out before it is high enough to be poured into the mud basin, where a second shadoof dips it up for another step towards the top of the ground. This constitutes the essential business of the fellah, or farmer. For three thousand years the same system has unquestionably been pursued, and with precisely the same kind of pole, balanced by a ball of mud at one end. Such rude and primitive modes of performing labor, without improvement or progress of any kind, constantly recurring, presented a strong contrast to the state of things in



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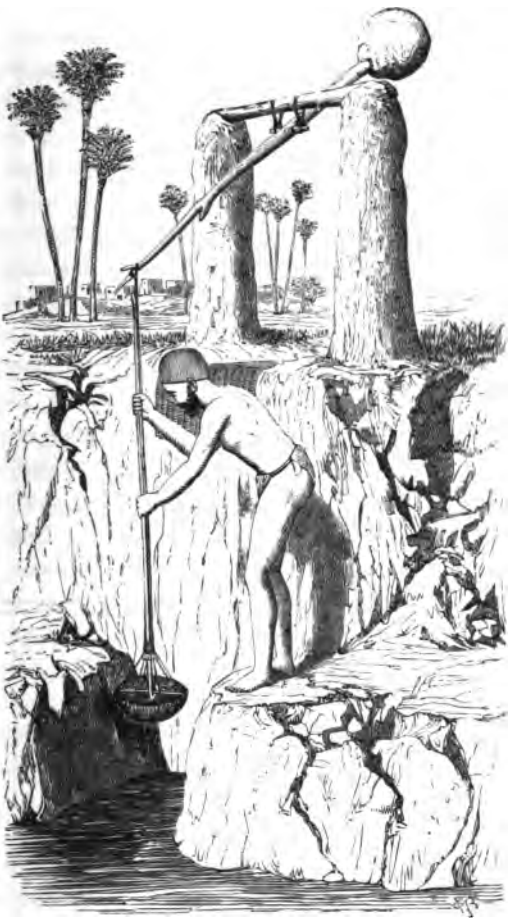

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the countries we had left, where mind is impressing the energies of nature to relieve man of these onerous burdens.

In the neighborhood of the house with glass windows, we observed two other buildings, superior to the common structures, whitewashed. The upper-story windows were protected by fine gratings,—indicating that the persons who occupied them had harems, the appendages of a man of distinction. Further on, a mud-walled enclosure was represented to contain an arsenal. In a doorway was a man weaving a web of silk, on a tiny loom, scarcely a foot wide,—the roughest, rudest combination of sticks and strings ever used for such a purpose. The piece was fine, even-threaded, and altogether a good article.

My short-hand notes furnish several other particulars of Benisooef. A second visit to the big mound gave a chance of analyzing its character. It seemed to be wholly of broken pottery, ashes, brick, straw, blocks of stone, bones, and manure. Were it leached, it would yield cargoes of saltpetre. No distant towns or villages, or even isolated hamlets, could be

discerned in the distance, in any direction. We saw yesterday some immensely large pelicans, and again to-day. They

are altogether superior, in size, to any I have seen in Paris, or at the Zoological Garden in London. In 1844, passing through Lake Pepin, on the Upper Mississippi, a flock of these bill-pouched birds was observed, which were delicately white, with the same general anatomical arrangement for carrying food, but Lilliputians compared with the gigantic pelicans of Upper Egypt. A battalion of monstrous vultures was descried on a

shoal, feasting on the carcass of an ass, with which a half-starved dog, or jackal, — it was not easy to decide which, — was either an invited guest, or a Jeremy Diddler in pursuit of a dinner. I watched their operations a long while. When the brute had his stomach full, he leisurely walked away, through files of strong vultures, who were probably gratified to have him take leave. When he had got some half a dozen rods off, every one of their eyes being upon him, they suddenly pounced upon the decaying mass, with voracious appetites. The last

we saw of them, they were lighting on the parts above water, which would roll over and tip them in, and fighting for morsels. When they seized hold with their strong beaks, the grip was like that of a vice; and, bracing their feet, the strength they exerted, in tearing bones and ligaments, was amazing.

All the crew marched aft, in a body, and demanded backshiesh, according to custom, on coming thus far up the river. We presented them one dollar and twenty-five cents, and they retired. Hassan continuing indisposed, it devolved on me to assist in cooking the dinner, rather than to go without. When the task was completed, I thought it would not have been worse to have gone hungry.

The sun went down in a sea of glory. Here we came to a dreary waste of sandy desert, — a true type of Arabia Deserta. The sand came close down to the water, leaving not an inch of fertile land. The encroachment of the desert here is an illustration of the manner it has been creeping on upon the soil through past ages. There are gaps where, instead of sand, on the eastern bank, there are walls of limestone, laid in courses, like Cyclopæan masonry, raised from forty to two hundred feet, almost perfectly perpendicular. At the top the sand has accumulated, by being driven up on the back side, giving a gentle inclined plain down to the common hard gravel level towards the desert. Without wind, the progress up the muddy, angry Nile is excessively fatiguing. It is a solemn kind of feeling, at nine o'clock at night, without a breath of air, to be rowing and poling up this murky, mysterious river. The moon was shining magnificently; and there stood, a little way off, a milk-white ibis, gazing at us, as though wondering who we could be, disturbing the quiet of its home, — for our wild Arabs began to chant one of their monotonous howls, of "O-ah, Mohammed."

Nov. 18*th*. *Monday.* — Winds are no more to be relied

upon here than a politician's promises. Although the indications were flattering for a good run through the past night, we were obliged to haul up to the bank early in the evening, in a pleasant, though somewhat lonely spot. A grass fire blazing up occasionally, near where we lay, induced us to push the plank ashore, and walk to where the smoke and flashes were seen. A man and woman sat on the ground, by the side of a hencoop, roasting millet-heads in the hot ashes, made from halfar grass, the only fuel to be had. With genuine Arabic hospitality, of which we had read, but had never been the recipients, they invited us to lay hold and eat. Two children, as nearly naked as they could be and yet be covered, were asleep, with their grimy caputs within a foot of the embers, and near enough to have singed their hair, if they had had any. Every child and man has the head shaven as bare as the palm of the hand. There is no deviation from the universal practice, — poor or rich, from infancy to extreme old age. Every current of smoke was driven into their dirty faces; but they slept on, regardless of all annoyances; for nature is imperative, and refuses to relinquish her claim upon young animals, while she is fashioning and finishing their bodies. It is only when they are in profound slumber that she can carry on her delicate internal operations. They must be still while the tubes are elongated and the valves are fitted; and, by throwing them into a deep sleep, she is not interrupted in her mechanical manipulations.

Vast fields of millet, resembling Indian-corn in stalks and leaves, extend up and down, and far back from the river. A tuft of seeds — the mass taking a pine-apple shape — grows from the extreme point; and, as it approximates a full development, bends over the stalk droopingly, and thus ripens. This has been an extremely hot day, — a New England dog-day, — and, withal, washing-day. An instinctive desire to be in a

better condition than the demi-nude people about us, is the apology for engaging in a series of domestic pursuits, which have been learned through a stern, uncompromising necessity. There was something supposed to require ironing; but the wrinkles were excessively obstinate, and refused to be smoothed, under the hardest pressure. The strangest thing of all, however, — a mystery not yet cleared up, — the washed garments looked worse, after all that had been done to them, than they did before being operated upon. Instead of obliterating wadees of soiled spots, Nile mud had become alarmingly conspicuous where it was the least welcome. We solaced ourselves by the comforting conclusion that it was only an optical deception, and thus ended the first attempt at the labors of the laundry.

Date-trees were numerous, even to the appearance of a forest, as we approached Minieh, the second great town in Upper Egypt. A French guide-book says that various fruit-trees abound all the way from Benisooef, which is untrue. No other kind of tree but the tall date-palm has been recognized, with the exception of some acacias, and perhaps a few other non-fruit bearers, of no particular interest on account of their qualities or appearance.

Nov. 19th. Tuesday. — As usual, the wind died away before sundown, leaving the boat to be hauled, against the current, to the first place the reis considered a safe one, — which means where other boats have made fast. These fluviatic Arabs are such arrant cowards, they try to conceal their native pusillanimity by pretending that it is dangerous to make a halt for the night at any other than certain stereotyped localities they have cautiously selected. In this instance, we came up broadside to the village of Galsan, — pronounced, by Hassan, Goncelo, — which is on the west bank, not ten miles from Minieh. A little back from the river, there is an amazing

accumulation of stuff that constitutes a mound, on and about which are the usual mud hovels. Date-trees were numerous, with a scattering of gum-trees, considerably resembling our garden damson-plum, but giving no fruit. One quite large boat was on the stocks, well made, considering the joinery powers and lack of mechanical ingenuity of those at work upon it.

A large tent, for shading coffee-drinkers or loungers, was within a rod or two of us. Several young women within it were singing a song, that must have delighted Arabic ears more than ours. At the repetition of certain words, an outburst of delight was sure to follow. A mat was spread in front, on the bare ground, and an invitation extended for us to sit upon it. This we declined, for a sufficient reason. A stroll along the bank brought to view a boat with an English flag. It was from Alexandria, with an English gentleman and his lady. Being a heavy, old, water-soaked concern, it dragged slowly, even under the exertions of a capital breeze, of which he complained bitterly. He was without a dragoman, with a crew of ten men.

On leaving the pinning-ground, this morning, three venerable-looking Arabs presented themselves, — two with staffs, and the third bearing a long pole tipped with an ugly iron spear, — and demanded a port charge for giving us safety through the night, within their jurisdiction. They represented themselves to be the true guardians of the public. The bill was seven cents, American currency, which was readily paid. For more than two miles, on leaving this resting-place, the bank of the river, on the right hand, alternated between twelve and fifteen feet in height above the water, in which there were bits of brick, broken pottery, and various other relics of civilization, interspersed throughout the exposed surface. Had the water been lower, unquestionably the same

articles would have been seen still deeper down in the alluvium. It presupposes the habitation of a multitude of human beings, to have produced such a vast collection of fragments; but, could the level of the city or town have been fifteen feet lower than at present? If it were so, then the bed of the Nile must have been lower, also. The whole land level is higher than it was, within the grasp of history; and if that fact is admitted, then the bed of the river has been raised in a corresponding ratio, and therefore maintains the same relation to the surface that it did some thousands of years ago. Unless the current transported these brick, stone and bits of earthen vessels, to their present position, from some locality of an ancient town, it is morally certain the region round about has been gradually rising from an incalculably remote epoch. Near or remote, it is equally certain that these silent witnesses in the bank testify to two important circumstances in relation to Egypt: namely, that human beings were here to make them; and, further, that the river has cut away a vast body of the same artificial kind of land, — another and irresistible evidence of the perpetual activity and changing character of the Nile, from one side to the other.

Crowds of men, women and children, were passing up stream on foot, — some on donkeys and others on camels, — probably to a fair. When opposite Gebel Tier, a long range of limestone rocks, close to the left bank, — celebrated as being, traditionally, the place where the birds formerly held an annual congress, — two stout Coptish monks, from an old monastery behind the ledge, swam out, and seized the side of the boat, begging furiously, at the top of their voices, for wine. We had seen them running a considerable distance, on a marshy, swampy plane, naked as they were born, till about opposite, when in they plunged, and soon came up alongside, puffing

and blowing like sea-lions. Backshiesh was on their lips, as everywhere else. They called us *Christos*, and made various overtures to convince us they were good Christians, by begging for backshiesh. With three fingers they clung to the gunwale, and were dragged ahead at a rapid rate. One of them kept repeating *Howadji Christanos*, as much as to say, Christian gentlemen. Their beards were long and black, their heads shaven smooth as glass, while their white, beautifully-sound teeth, were advantageously shown by opening their mouths to show they were empty. Brandy was the drink they most wanted. Two empty bottles were thrown to them; one drained the last reluctant drops, and then the cry was for wine.

At three o'clock, P. M., arrived at Minieh, the residence of another governor, and the site of ruins. From tradition and the historians, we learn that this was a town of importance, thousands of years ago. Great events transpired in this dusty, thirsty, uninviting Arab town, before the birth of Abraham. All the streets were narrow, and commanded at each extremity by wooden doors. Policemen, or officers of the army, — we could not be certain which, — with their belts stuck full of large, heavy horse-pistols, were lounging about in the bazaar, and cooling themselves where a shade was to be had. One swarthy fellow, strutting about, with an expression of singular importance, had a wooden sword, — quite as useful to him as one of steel. They are notorious cowards, and rarely use their arms till they are positively sure there is no danger; or when goaded on by task-masters in the rear, who would kill them did they not kill those in front. There was nothing to be seen in the bazaars but soft bread, tobacco, pipes, eggs, fowls, and coarse articles of hard ware. The women were in the majority, lounging in the alleys and streets.

There is a splendid sugar-manufacturing house there, under

the management of a French engineer. The sugar was of the best quality. A heap of animal bones in the yard astonished us. At first sight, the collection of carcasses was startling. They are converted into coal, and used in clarifying the sugar. Great fields of growing cane extended far into the distance. Water was raised by a steam pump, poured into mud-trenches, and thus distributed over the roots of the growing crops.

Nov. 20th. — With incessant pulling and tugging, we succeeded in getting a few miles from Minieh, and, unwillingly, laid by for the night. At early dawn, the village was scoured for fresh provisions, which, at the end of three hours, resulted in the purchase of eight half-starved chickens. I begin to loathe them, from being obliged to feed on poultry the whole time. Hassan cooked them better than anything; — our praise of his skill made him ambitious to stew a hecatomb of them. One Arab, in a cabin nearly opposite the tombs of Beni Hassan, sought my advice, having incidentally ascertained that I was a hakem, or doctor. He had a singularly tumefied abdomen, probably from gorging on green roasted millet. Poor creature! — he had a comfortless home in a mud hovel. He was lying on a straw mat in a corner, on the ground, — the only floor, in a dark room, eight feet square by six high. There was neither a window or a particle of furniture, beyond a sieve, coarse as a cane-seat chair-bottom. The door was so low that I had to shorten one-half to enter. All the women in the neighborhood rushed in, while groups of heavy-bearded men, wild, strong and restless in their movements, blocked up the outside. It was necessary to have them open right and left to obtain light enough to see the patient. Being in a dark region, the females dropped their veils, which gave me a fair opportunity of scanning their features, they being between me and the light. They were excessively ugly and dirty. They

all squatted on the ground, intently watching my motions, and curiously gazing at the paper of little powders, unrolled, in pursuit of something appropriate for the swelled fellah. Whether the active cathartic that was given removed the difficulty, is unknown. His care-worn expression, the misery that surrounded him, the moral darkness that must have been his accompaniment through life, and the social condition of the community with which he was identified, were so forcibly impressed upon my mind, that I cannot forget him. Nile water, raw or roasted millet, sheets of soft black bread, baked in the hot ashes of grass and cow-dung, are the principal articles of food, for well or sick, which are within the reach of these poor people. The exactions of the local governors and sheiks take from them the few luxuries that might be occasionally used under a milder system of government.

Business increased rapidly, by finding medicine and visiting gratuitously. By sundown I should have had an immense practice, had we remained. One of the crew became indisposed. One of his aquatic associates had the reputation of being a doctor, and therefore he was consulted, instead of myself. This was gratifying, because it gave me an opportunity of witnessing the native medication. First, the patient's head was thoroughly manipulated, much as the magnetizers proceed; he then pulled both ears smartly, till they were red, stroked the head from the crown to the forehead, and then pinched the scalp into longitudinal wrinkles, by nipping it with his fingers. Dampening his fingers, he gently rubbed the spine and arms. Suddenly he jerked the poor dog's neck from side to side, as though he were trying to snap it off. Some hot water was poured into the ears. Next the navel was tenderly touched with tepid water, as cautiously as though it were the apple of the eye. When those external acts were

through, I gave him a cup of tea, and Yasack retired under a plank for repose, where two turkeys, a goose, a cat, a basket of charcoal, a bag of potatoes, and all the rats, were lodged.

On pulling up the mooring-pin, the last time, one of the crew was still strolling on shore, to overtake us. He must have run several miles on the bank, when the boat sheered in, and he sprang on board. A few words were heard, when the reis flew at him with the ferocity of a tiger, and beat him unmercifully, when a blow was not diverted by the culprit's hand. The scuffle was spirited, for a few moments, the reis striking with a piece of rope; but the sailor was strong, and, had he dared, he might have sent his master overboard with a kick. When the affray had ended, the reis laid down the rope, faced the holy city of Mecca, bowed reverentially, and then went calmly through the prescribed prayers. A question, subsequently, being raised in regard to the true direction of Mecca, — some facing towards a point different from others, — a map and compass were produced, and the matter settled; the reis manifesting evident gratification on being confirmed by those witnesses that he was right.

We came to a cleared field, where, the crop being off, the manner of making indigo was examined. Two men, with a strip of cloth about their loins, wearing caps, were stirring the boiling mass in earthen pots, sunk into earth, when we came in sight. To ascertain whether they stood in fear of howadjis, I made the following experiment: As soon as our eyes met, I ran towards them as swiftly as my feet would go, when away they ran into the millet-stalks, at a deer's speed, and that was the last of them. They doubtless thought that we were impressing soldiers, and therefore instantly ran beyond our reach.

To-day we passed several rafts, entirely composed of earthen

pots, with their mouths up, lashed together ingeniously by strips of rattan binding and bamboo poles. Men walked over them, as they do on timber-rafts on the Rhine, and on the St. Lawrence, in Canada. They were bailing constantly, stepping from one vessel to the other. The pots, being unglazed, leaked, of course. A rag, dipped in, imbibed the water; and thus they were perpetually on the watch, that none of them should get too full, and drag the rest to the bottom. Went by a town, on the river-bank, that has been singularly cut away by the never-tiring Nile, which is now undermining the inhabitants. Saw a very large number of sakkias. Some of the hard workers, who were laboring at them, were white, like Europeans; consequently, the contrast with the bronze or brassy hue of others, by the side of them, was striking. Went ashore to inspect some valuable sugar-machinery, excellent in finish, from France.

Nov. 21st. Thursday.—This day was unusually monotonous, and unproductive of incidents. We progressed very slowly, the wind being both light and flawy. Lost sight of the Englishman's boat. Walked on the eastern bank about two miles, this forenoon, which afforded a good opportunity for ascertaining the land culture. Patches of tobacco, a few beans, and sugar-cane, were common; but millet was the predominant crop. Ridges of mud were raised, beginning at the shadoof, which conducted the water, when drawn, to every root and hillock on the field. Farming in November consists mainly in drawing water for irrigation, and in making preparation for sowing some kind of seed. Saw a few good horses, hampered; some poor sheep, one of which was purchased; several well-fed buffaloes, and one or two young camels. A boy was fishing, at a turn in the river, by suddenly plunging a wicker basket, inverted, into the water. He then thrust his hand through a

hole, and caught the prisoners, and threw them on the ground. The Nile must be plentifully stocked, to have them numerous enough to be thus taken, in shallow places. The boys even waded in the muddy water, and easily took considerable numbers of lively little scaled fish, in the same manner.

Nov. 22d. Friday. — A day of dulness; no wind, of any consequence, since last evening; consequently, our advance onward has been vexatiously unsatisfactory. The river was tortuous, and, while musing on its freaks, in cutting first into one bank and then shooting across to the other, we passed by Manfaloot, having a governor, with a residence for him, christened a palace. It is probably the site of an ancient town. The name signifies the *place of wild asses;* while, according to the traditions of the inhabitants, it means the *place of exile of Lot.* It is pretended that the holy family resided in this town till after the death of Herod. The river has rapidly washed away a part of the town, and may soon sweep off the remainder. Beni Ali, back of the town, and quite near the Libyan desert, was the spot where Mohammed Ali had his Nizam, or best troops, drilled for exploits in the Morea. Thousands of wild geese were flying overhead, and lighting on the shoals and exposed mud-bars.

Nov. 23d. Saturday. — Through much loss of time, windings of the river, and lack of wind, we did not arrive at the great town of Osioot, with its twenty thousand inhabitants, till noon. It is over a mile and a half from the port, or landing-place, back to the settlement. It is the site of the famed ancient city of Lycopolis, or city of the wolves, and the abode of the governor of Upper Egypt. So rapidly has the land been formed, that the river is actually crowded nearly two miles to the east from its old channel. We passed the catacombs of the dogs, up in the rocks, beyond the town. A major-

ity of the dwellings are mud; some are of old broken bricks, that may have been used a hundred times before. I counted nine minarets, — a proof of their being nine mosques. Rode through the lane-streets, dubbed bazaars, on donkeys. We were objects of amusement to the quiet native lookers-on. My high-crowned black hat was more astonishing than our white faces. A prisoner was led by us, on foot, with both hands keyed into a heavy piece of square timber, apparently over two feet long by six inches square, from whence iron trace-chains reached to his neck, and, perhaps, feet. He was preceded by an officer on horseback, and followed by soldiers with guns. An ass-driver gave me to understand that he would be shot; but capital punishments are virtually abolished in Egypt; and, therefore, the prisoner's crime was to be atoned for in some other way, savagely cruel, and, no doubt, worse than death.

The grain mart was on a wide kind of bridge, spanning a canal, on one side of which, and thence some way into the street, finely-developed Arab dealers in grain were gravely seated on the bare ground, by the side of heaps of peas, beans, barley, and some other kinds of seed, not familiar to me. They wore white turbans, had heavy coal-black beards, and were smoking in dignified silence, as we ambled over their feet, and between their piles of property. Mr. Holland had written a letter, which he wished to mail at this place for Cairo. With a good deal of inquiry, the post-master was found; but the superscription must necessarily be in Arabic, or no one could send it to its destination. Accompanied by Hassan, it took half an hour, at least, in the busy streets, to find a man who could write. The post-master kept close to his heels till the direction was written, and then took the postage in advance. We here purchased groceries, charcoal, and native bread; and, on returning to the boat, were met by the crew, in a body,

demanding backshiesh again, which was given, as on a former occasion.

A flock of noisy wild geese flew over head, to-day, that were judged to extend several miles in a continuous line. Their numbers exceeded by ten-fold all flights of them in other countries with which we are familiar. They feared us, and shunned the near approach of the boat; but were rarely disturbed by the sight of Arabs. They either learned, on other continents, that the Christians are waging a perpetual warfare with all feathered tribes, or the bad usage they have had meted out to them by the hands of foreigners, when they arrive in Egypt, induces them to shun all but the natives at sight. We have a bad reputation with the birds. How is it that Mohammedans, in their intercourse with animals, are so much more humane than the most pious and exemplary professors of religion? They are without mercy towards each other, when heated by passion, yet they are trustworthy and abiding friends of beasts and birds. Witnessed from the boat a real knock-down fight; both turbans and rope's ends flew about, like feathers in a whirlwind; but, as the combatants hurt no one but themselves, we cared nothing about it. When coming out of the town, through a gateway raised upon a dike, we noticed, with more earnestness than when we entered, the rows of soldiers, armed with swords and pistols, squads of grain-dealers, and long lines of Arab gentlemen seated on mother earth, smoking. Saw some ploughing going on in a field; the plough was a natural crook of wood, and the team, two cows.

Nov. 24th. Sunday. — A tolerable run, after leaving Osioot, through last night. A boisterous wind, to-day, in blasts and squalls, which brought the sand from the desert in a fine sheet; we could see it, at times, in admirable commotion. Had we been in the midst of it, three or four miles off, it would have

given us all the features of a sand-storm. Early last evening, we laid by a short time, in a bend of the river; and, hearing the sound of merriment, and seeing the flashes of a grass fire, a lantern was prepared, and off we started, in search of the jollification, — a very unusual circumstance in an Arabic settlement, where nothing but the barking of dogs is heard after the shades of evening prevail. Flat on the ashes and rubbish, in one corner of a roofless, floorless house, sat an elderly woman, beating a sort of drum, resembling a rough tamborine, while seven or eight girls — her companions in ashes — were clapping their hands in unison, beating time. In another dark corner were some swarthy, turbaned Arabs, whom we should not have seen, had not a flash of fresh grass revealed their persons. They were silently smoking, and listening, with apparent pleasure, to the discordant sounds of the female performers. Hassan said this was the celebration of a marriage in low life; — just as low as it could be, without digging; — and the bride may have been her husband's fortieth wife, for aught I know to the contrary, as the men are perpetually divorcing their wives, on the most trivial pretexts, and supplying the vacancy in their capacious hearts by the immediate espousal of another.

Not far from this is a celebrated stone, which is visited by females from a distance, who address it as though it were conscious, and leap over it, praying they may be the mother of many children. They are never satisfied with the number they have, — and yet they are astonishingly prolific. Even little girls ape the manners of their elders, and leap the stone for dear life. A woman who has outdone all her neighbors in bearing children is a gem. *Multiply* is the sentiment impressed on every eastern mind, — for children are power. Sons are a

glory to a mother. "What father puts away the mother of his sons?" asks the Arab wise man.

Although passing, every hour or two, the sites of great towns, either of early Egyptian or Coptish origin, it is scarcely worth while to write what tradition says of them. Came in sight of Gowel Kebeér, where a vast temple once stood, dedicated to Antæus. Proceeding upward, great mounds came into view, — the reliable evidences of a town having once been on them. Gebel Shekh Hereedee, another point on the river, upon our track, was reputed once to have been the home of a monstrous serpent, that cured all diseases. Saw in the afternoon, on the east side, square door entrances into the limestone rocks, seventy feet or more above the base. Four or five were near together; then considerable space intervened, and another series was presented, along the range of natural masonry. There must have been mechanical skill, patience and fearlessness, in those who worked their way into the mountain in that manner. Doubtless these excavations were receptacles for the dead. They extended some miles, before they were finally lost sight of. Read parts of the Old Testament that made reference to the customs of Egypt at the period in which they were written; and was satisfied no great changes in the domestic character of the inhabitants have been effected since, although the Arabs are comparatively new comers. They copied the habits and domestic arrangements of their predecessors, who had followed in the footsteps of a still more remote people; and, therefore, the aspect of every-day life in the Nilotic valley is nearly what it has been for thousands of years.

Nov. 25th. Monday. — To our extreme gratification, this has been a windy day. Strange, how gentlemen of common sense can find nothing more agreeable than wind for a topic, in the focus of the grandest ruins on the globe; but it is a mem-

orable fact, we were sometimes actually straitened for conversational subjects. Under circumstances like these, there was nothing to say, when one might have expected nothing short of learned disquisitions on the wisdom of the Egyptians, of which those discourse the most enthusiastically who know the least about it. It is by no means certain that the liege subjects of the monarchs of the Nile had any wisdom at all. All the wind we have is invariably from the west. This shows the advantage of making the voyage at the season when it takes the trade character.

As heretofore, mounds of old settlements are all the while coming within the range of vision; some are near, and others remote. There is not an inch of soil on either side the venerable Nile, from the Mediterranean to the Mountains of the Moon, that has not been in the occupancy of human beings, since they first set foot on the land. Mud villages, millet-fields, and, frequently, a patch of new grain, are recognized. There are no pastures, no grass-fields, or swells of cultivated ground. The farms are on a dead level, and must be regularly watered, or nothing can grow. Dates are the principal trees; clusters of locusts are raised for timber; but they are not large, and, when hewn, six feet is beyond the average length of a stick free from knots and crooks. Out of these the boats are manufactured. All the men, women and children, dress here precisely as they do all the way down to Alexandria.

Passed, this morning, the town of Ekhmim, the site of one of the largest cities of the Thebiad, or province of Thebes. Shall have more to say of it, and of those places we omit in ascending, on our return. Two miles further, passed a Copt convent, on the east bank, located on a mound. Although these Christian solitaries are single men,—matrimony not being tolerated, because it would divert them from the contem-

plation and practice of their faith, — they have wives, says some slanderous authority. My opinion is, that the Coptish Christian church does not forbid the marriage of monks. Hassan, who travelled with a distinguished man, some years since, up this very course, assured us that his master purchased a Nubian slave woman, who became a favorite, and on whom he settled a pension, that was continued till she died. Hassan speaks of having seen Miss Martineau, a woman who heard with a *big ting in her ear*. The desert encroaches upon the river along here, in all the dreariness of bare stone, on the east side, quite touching the water, for some miles. Hassan gave us some statistical memoranda of this neighborhood. At Thebes, he says, an Arab fellah died, last season, who had forty children by three wives, namely, twenty-five sons and fifteen daughters. Most of the former are now men grown. Saw as many as three hundred very large white pelicans together, on a bar of mud. Just back of Ekhmim is a stone, to which females resort, on account of its singular properties of making those fruitful who repeat certain appropriate words over it, and remain a certain period for rest and meditation. It is, probably, an old sculptured fragment of a long ago destroyed temple.

Nov. 26th. Tuesday. — While walking through the bazaar of Girgeh, a finely-dressed Arab, in a tarbousch, immense trousers, with two big pistols sticking in his sash, came up, with a patronizing air, and, before we were aware of his intentions, appeared to be showing us off to the natives. He patted me on the back, saying *tibe*, in a low voice, meaning good; when the Rev. Mr. Holland stepped in front, and told him, in an unmistakable language, to right about face, or he would knock him into another week. He took the hint, and gladly made his exit, to the amusement of the astonished looking-on smokers.

At four o'clock, P. M., yesterday, the reis insisted upon stopping at Girgeh, to bake bread; and, as it was stipulated in the contract that twenty-four hours should be allotted for that purpose, no objections could be made that would avail, although it was excessively provoking to halt in a favorable breeze, when the business of running against a strong current was the first to be attended to, till the end of the voyage was attained. I advise all future voyagers on the Nile, in making a boat-bargain, on no account to give an hour for this bread-baking. It is only a scheme for delay, to prolong the trip, and get more money; or, rather, pay, without rendering an equivalent.

Early this morning, donkeys were procured for an inland excursion; but they came without saddles or bridles. We were bound to the celebrated ruins of Abydos. The little, fuzzy, long-eared brutes looked as though they might be laughing in their skins at their own shabby appearance. Mine was guided with a stick; but the driver took the cord that confined his shirt round the waist, and laid it across the ridge-pole back of the wise-looking quadruped, into the ends of which my toes found a bearing; and the remainder of the jaunt was made tolerably comfortable, for a bare-back ride, in a hot sun, seven miles, without saddle or bridle. Abydos was the city of cities, in the glorious days of Egyptian greatness. It was here that Osiris and Rameses the Great were buried. Unnecessary alarm was raised about the danger of the expedition. A guide refused to budge, unless he had assistants. This was a trick to get more money than could otherwise be realized. Having learned something of Arabic character by the little intercourse had with them since entering the country, we started off with a guide, two donkeys, and one single driver, without a guard; and arrived, without molestation or hindrance, at the massive ruins of the buried temples. The guide carried a long stick.

His venerable beard, huge hot turban on a shaven head, spare, bare spindle-shanks, and solemn aspect, amused us exceedingly. He seemed to feel the importance of his elevated position, as he walked before us almost as fast as our sheep-sized asses could scramble over the path, urged and goaded in the rear by their attendant tormentor.

We made a satisfactory exploration of the magnificent ruins. There are two temples, nearly concealed by the accumulation of sand from the Libyan desert. They were probably on an eminence, in the centre of a highly-cultivated plain, that inclined to the river, which once flowed within half a mile of them. It is now several miles to the river, — the tendency being, as it has been for an undefined period, toward the eastern desert. The roofs of both edifices were flat, and made of enormous blocks of stone. Here and there one was broken, so that we could squeeze in and get underside, which would be the very top of the ceiling, had the spacious apartments been empty. There is a mystery in regard to the filling up of these and some other immense structures we have seen. Sand does not make the mass within; on the contrary, broken bricks, stones of unequal sizes, pottery, loam, bones of animals, &c., are as compactly stowed, as though carried in with a view to filling up the interior. One of the buildings is called the palace, and the other a temple. The pillars — which we got to by crawling with a lighted candle — are immensely large, and covered with reliefs, of very wonderful execution. While some were large, others were minute; but the exquisite finish was surprising, and just as perfect in all its details as when it was completed by the mechanics who executed it. On the walls, too, there were immense numbers of figures, such as are everywhere recognized on Egyptian monuments. This burying of such immense edifices must have been brought about by

sand-storms, which finally drove away the people who resided near these sacred places; and, in process of time, they were both neglected and forgotten. A short distance to the west of these great works of art, we saw the base of a monolith, like those in Rome, and the one in Paris, and particularly resembling Cleopatra's Needle, at Alexandria. It was five feet square. My curiosity was raised to ascertain how it was possible to break off a column of stone of such dimensions without wrenching the remaining portion from its perpendicular position. The shaft of the obelisk is, no doubt, under the sand, quite near. Fragments, two miles west, indicate extensive settlements to have existed once on that spot.

Abydos is now called Arābat el Matfoón, or *The buried.* Whether a canal originally ran from the Nile to the magnificent ruins, or the river swept near by, are questions. I am quite inclined to the opinion that the river was there. In the time of Strabo, Abydos had become a mere village; but, in its glory, it was only second to Thebes. In the general survey of the remains of Egyptian architecture, a reference will be made to these great works again. A vast cemetery, as old as Osirtasin I., — who reigned 1740 years before Christ, — and other early Pharaohs, and some of the ovals containing the name of Rameses the Great, have been identified. The face of the projecting rocks, raised up on the brow of the desert, are cut into, very high up. These are grottoes, and, not unlikely, deep recesses, that might have been tombs of the most distinguished of the people in the age in which they were wrought. Throughout Egypt, preparations for death seem to have been the leading thought.

Being announced as a doctor, the whole population of a miserable village, half a mile distant, flocked together round the corner of the mighty fabric, on the top of which we were then

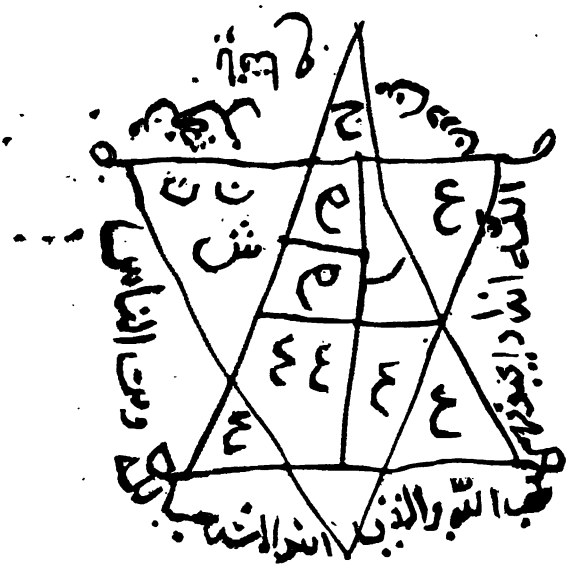
sitting, for reflection and luncheon, having completed our researches into the splendid but debased interior. One had a sore on the back of his neck; a second, a lame knee; and others, both real and imaginary maladies. Keen-black-eyed boys; light-footed, gazelle-eyed Arab girls, timid as fawns; together with bronzed, hard-featured men, — all of whom startled like wild birds whenever we turned round, shifted seats, or made any unusual movements, — clustered about us. They watched our eating operations; gazed with intense interest on the different kinds of food we had, as much as to say, that is *extraordinary*. If a bit of hard biscuit were given any one of them, all the rest encircled him for a taste. Two savage fellows came down over the rocks, out of the desert, and entered the group; but the universal sentiment was that they should be driven off; and away they went, while the rabble were hooting and screaming after them, as they ran for their desolate retreat over the hills. A fellow wanted his pulse examined, to know what I thought of his health. Putting on Mr. Holland's gold-bowed spectacles, and holding a stone between my eyes and his wrist, as though inspecting it, he started back with surprise. He wanted to look through the stone, also; but I hesitated. As he expressed some doubt about my ability to look through it, he was told to put his hand under the block on which I was sitting, — which was all of four feet square, — and, with the glasses, I pretended to inspect it. One of the wondering spectators expressed a desire to put on the magic glasses, to ascertain whether he could see through them. He was indulged, and the stone interposed between the object and his optics, when, lo! as much to my surprise as that of the excited audience, he declared he could see the hand through the stone! This was more than had been anticipated; it satis-

factorily explains how the imagination may assist believers in animal magnetism to see what is not to be seen.

Very many of these shy creatures had antiques for sale,—coins, artificial bugs or beetles, bits of glass, and incomprehensible figures,—which they valued, in most cases, beyond the means of their visiters. No doubt, they are continually finding remnants and memorials of the arts, some thousand years old, and will continue to, in all coming ages; because the very soil and sand are strewn with them. The territory was originally circumscribed, which compressed the population into narrow boundaries; hence it would be surprising, indeed, should no evidences of a mechanical people be found, where one generation followed another, on the same localities, from two to four thousand years.

When we returned to the boat, a Mohammedan priest was sitting, cross-legged, on Hassan's bench, where he slept, earnestly writing, on long, narrow strips of paper. This led to the inquiry what he was doing, and the purport of his visit in our absence. The answer was, that the holy man was preparing charms, to keep off fever. The lines written were from the Koran. He was assured that a remedy so simple was worth having, as three of the sailors had been feverish. Hassan was still debilitated from a slight attack, and doubtless felt unshaken confidence in the priestly conjurations. As the man of sanctimonious pretensions was stepping to the plank, one of the crew put money in his hand, which was pocketed, of course. I could perceive no difference, in the general outward air of superiority in these operators on the heart, conscience and credulity of their followers, and that of the priests of Rome. They both pretended to accomplish the same results, by different means; and they certainly both took money for their heavenly intercessions. One seems quite as sincere as

the other. Hassan was rather unwell, with slight feverish symptoms, which may have induced him to avail himself of the influence of the preacher with the powers that afflict true believers. When the paras were put in the hand of the priest, he rolled up his eyes in a kind of pious expression, while his thin lips moved, perhaps with a benediction on the giver. I happened to pick up one of the charms on deck, which may



FAC SIMILE OF THE CHARM.

have been accidentally dropped. As no one inquired for it, it was retained as a curiosity. At evening, there was the smoke of frankincense puffing up from under the deck-planks, accompanied with the sweet odor of that favorite gum with the eastern churches. Some religious rites had probably been performed, of which this was a part, by direction of the spirit-

ual adviser. It is quite common to see young camels, mules, &c., with charms sewed in a bit of canvas, and suspended to their necks, to keep off evil spirits, as well as the evil eye.

Geese cost, in Girgeh, seventeen cents apiece; a turkey, thirty-seven cents; fowls, five cents; and pigeons, five cents. We had quite an aviary on board; and it was a pleasure to look at the domesticated family springing for every crumb that fell. The next place ahead, of character, was Thebes. One-eyed farmers became scarcer; but those who were without the right forefinger, and had the two upper front teeth on the right side knocked out, still surprisingly numerous. Ophthalmia prevailed in the towns, but few cases were recognized in the small villages. The totally blind were painfully common everywhere. Small-pox must have been fatally prevalent through all this region, judging from the numbers who are pock-marked. While lying under the town, a dervish, with a long, flowing head of tangled hair, dressed with considerable taste, — a hale, muscular fellow, above the ordinary height, — took a stand on the side hill above us. After surveying the howadjis with a look of sovereign contempt, he exposed a copper horn, two feet or more in length, serrated on the outer circumference, so as to resemble the rough, knotted horn of the buffalo, on which he blew tremendously two long-continued blasts, sounding but a single note. It was incredible that he could have forced such a volume of wind from his lungs, and is yet a marvel how he could possibly maintain the sound so long without taking breath. When he did stop, he sent a boy, and demanded five paras for the trouble! He was performing to raise money for a whirling community, of which he was a sample.

Nov. 27th. — Nothing of interest; slow towing; reading, and examining into my domestic affairs, — such as clean handker-

chiefs and shirts; — feeding poultry, and proclaiming the law, that they are to have food, air, water and humane treatment, from the unfeeling crew. Saw, for the first time, to-day, on the Nile, a huge crocodile, sunning himself. Hassan fired, without even disturbing the monster; but a second charge awoke him, and he slowly swayed off the mud-bank, and plunged out of sight. Saw on the bank several crates of colocynth, a vegetable production of the desert, of the size of oranges, strongly resembling them when divested of the rind. They are used in medicine, and grow spontaneously in the sand. When ripe, they are detached by the wind, and roll about, unless collected, till destroyed. Passed a boat entirely laden with pigeon-manure, — very dear, and much prized for raising melons. It seems to be the only kind of manure in which Egyptians place confidence. This explains why they give such general attention to pigeon raising, above all other accompaniments of the farm-yard. On both sides of the Nile, from the Mediterranean to Thebes, every village, and nearly every house, has stacks of earthen pots, laid horizontally, to the extent of hundreds, in which doves establish themselves. It is one of the curiosities of the country, to see so many millions of these beautiful, graceful, inoffensive birds. They forage, of course, on the grain-fields; but they are neither driven off nor molested. We often saw crows following the sower, close to his heels, picking up the kernels rapidly; but they were not even frightened away. Passed a cargo of charcoal, sewed up in grass mats. It came from Nubia, above Egypt. Wood is extremely scarce in this part of Egypt. No charcoal can be manufactured here, since there is no wood that can be spared for the purpose. Nine beggars seated themselves before us, and simultaneously pressed their claims, which we did not trouble ourselves to investigate.

Nov. 28th. Thursday. — Another windless night. It must appear ridiculous, to persons living on land, that travellers should have so much to say about wind. The fact is, it is a power on which they rely for being conveyed from one station to another, when their trail is on an African river. After breakfast, we commenced a long walk on the Libyan side, passing the trunks of several sycamores, full five feet in diameter. Saw a number of tamarasks, the sacred tree of Ancient Egypt, the shittim wood of the Old Testament. Waded through a field of halfar-grass, near which we saw two Arabs cutting off two fallen date-trees, near the roots. Their axes were mere rude, light hatchets, and an adze. It was the effort of children in the result, and tedious beyond conception. I have often seen carpenters at work in this country; yet not one of them had a common hand-saw, but one stretched in a frame, similar to the wood-sawyer's, and of small size. Their efficient and all-sufficient tool is a small adze, which, in their slow hands, is an axe, hammer, chisel, and everything else but a chest of tools. A bow-drill is invariably used in the place of a gimblet, which last instrument seems to be unknown in Upper Egypt. Cut nails are not known; every nail, spike or tack, is hammered out of wrought iron. The largest and best modern sugar-making establishment on the Nile is here, at Farshoot, and is the property of Achmet Bey, of Cairo. It is immense in all its appointments, giving employment to five hundred persons, chiefly natives, under the superintendence of a Frenchman. The sugar was beautifully white, and the engineer said the quantity sent to market annually was two million four hundred thousand pounds. The machinery is all of the modern kind, made in France. The engines are kept in motion, and, in fact, all the processes are conducted, by steam; and the fuel is wholly and entirely halfar-grass, — a high, coarse, sharp-

edged, wiry production, which cattle could not very well feed on, even when young, fresh and tender. It grows in tufts, very rank and stiff, — thousands of acres having been overgrown with it in the neighborhood. The Arabs were perpetually arriving with it, in dry bundles, on camels, unlading it in a yard. One piastre — equal to five cents — was paid for two hundred quintals. Labor could not be worth much, when hundreds of strong men were uninterruptedly engaged in bringing grass in that unprofitable manner. A dozen bundles would hardly weigh a hundred pounds. The firemen were incessantly tucking it under the boilers. The rapidity with which an enormous quantity of the accumulated grass was burnt was a source of amazement; but the product quite as much so. A cart-load would be consumed in an instant. Pretty frequently, the ashes had to be raked out, on account of their peculiar character. The mass had all the appearance and general character of scoriæ from a blacksmith's forge. Where such a quantity of iron could be found with that grass, on the extended alluvial plains on which it abounds, may exercise the ingenuity of a future geologist to unravel. The operatives were as nearly naked as they could be, and yet have a rag for decency. Some were skimming the boiling syrup, in that defenceless condition. It was a hot place within, as well as without; but the overseer said they were never burned. A large well being sunk, a few rods from the river, into which the water percolated laterally, it was raised by a stout steam-pump into a plastered trough, which conducted it to a cane-field. Some of it ran the distance of four miles. This establishment was conducted on strictly scientific principles. The proprietor is far enough in advance of the ordinary Egyptian mind to give up the management to foreign Christian howadjis; and he is consequently making not only more sugar than

any other manufacturer, but that of a superior quality. All the Arabs and Turks are consumers of sugar; and the profits from the capital invested at Farshoot must far exceed the knowledge of Abbas Pasha's government, I apprehend; because the prosperity of an individual is a pretext, in a despotism, for unrighteous exactions. Possibly, the relationship of every one of the sugar manufacturers on the Nile to himself is the source of their security; and it may also be possible that he prefers to have them amuse and profit themselves in that way, rather than to be meddling with the politics of the country, as all such royal relatives are inclined to do, where the constitution is the will of the person who rules the whole.

We saw some immensely large hewn sandstones lying on the bank, covered with raised figures and symbolical characters, — old Egyptian work, which had been brought from the eastern side, for purposes of common stone-masonry. They were said to have been a part of an ancient tomb. It was a pity to have such magnificent specimens of the learning and ingenuity of the ancient people broken up ruthlessly for such trifling and ignoble purposes. The masses of broken bricks, raised into heaps ten and twenty feet high, and strewn over the ground for a whole mile, besides infinite numbers of broken pieces imbedded in the soil, peeping out of the eroded bank, show that human beings and human labor have been here; but who these were, or in what age the indestructible memorials of their thought and contrivance were fabricated, is lost to history.

This was a working day. We came to an extraordinary curve of the river, which actually carried us directly north, by the compass; yet the water comes from the south, and our course lays in that direction. This anomaly probably results from a singular geological arrangement of the rock-beds, that has played a fantastic trick with the channel.

Nov. 29th. Friday. — We did not move ten miles, after making up the log, yesterday, in consequence of the wind failing. Nothing in sight worthy of record, nor any occurrence out of the common course. Hassan explained the nature of the Mohammedan heaven, which, as a true and faithful believer, he fully expects to inherit. As he understands it, paradise is a place where there are fine houses, green fields, graceful trees, in connection with certain desirable accompaniments to the Moslem's happiness. A pious follower of the prophet is to have the possession of those comforts and physical enjoyments forever. The wicked, on the other hand, will be punished three thousand years, when Mohammed will look to it that all his followers on earth are ultimately liberated from hell, and comfortably provided for in the mansions of the blessed. A bad Mussulman, therefore, — one who neglects his five daily prayers, or is wilfully negligent of other great and indispensable duties, — must undergo a punishment, temporarily, to impress upon his mind his own unworthiness, and the exalted mediatorial influence and grandeur of the author of his faith. In answer to the question, what he imagined would be the destiny of Christians, Hassan said that Christ would also look after his disciples; and that all denominations would be marshalled under their several guides, and finally permitted to participate in the same category of physical enjoyments, in the same material paradise.

Contrary to our expectations, the reis hauled up, nine miles below Keneh, at a place called Fow, for the night. High words ensued, and resort was had to the written contract, to determine which party was in the right, — we insisting that we would proceed, and he declaring this the only safe position. Making a bustling show of courage, and vociferating that we feared nothing, stop where he might, the paper was produced.

Unfortunately, Hassan, gentleman and scholar as he was, could not read; neither could the reis. The document was written in Arabic, and one of the crew pretended he could decipher it; but, not being willing to trust to his understanding of it, an appeal was made, at this juncture, to a resident on shore, who was reputed learned in the written language. A circle immediately gathered round the distinguished being who was to decide an important question between the high contracting parties. His preparation for reading, by casting wise, significant glances at the horribly crooked black scrawls, gave him evident importance in the estimation of his bare-legged and bare-backed associates. By and by, the mountain moved, when, lo! he proclaimed that it was written so badly he could not read it at all! Probably he could not, had it been ever so fair and distinct. It reminded me of the anecdote of a man who called to purchase a pair of glasses of a shop-keeper, who had advertised them under the name of helps-to-read. He tried on the whole stock in the shop; but still he could not read a letter, simply because he had never learned how. Vexed with disappointment, on both sides, we prepared to move on, till a man could be found who could decipher the paper. In the mean time, the reis fastened up for repose. Whenever the beetle with leather rings was brought from its hiding-hole, it was always an indication that a snooze was contemplated. It was announced to him that the guard he might employ would not be paid by us, if he persisted in his obstinacy. He chose to abide the consequences.

There happened to be at Fow quite a company of dancing-girls,—the first we had seen,—who were accompanied by three musicians, native performers, whose skill we had a desire to witness. A grave, white-bearded Arab sat on the ground, within a mud-walled yard, of small dimensions, with a kind of

violin, the rudest contrivance for extracting music we had ever seen; yet he produced a stave or two of a melancholy air, sad as the face of grief, and the least inspiring of all sounds for stimulating a dance. There were but two strings, which were

sawed to and fro by a horse-hair bow, held in the manner of a tenor viol. An iron rod ran through the instrument, and served as a rest to support it. One head was stretched over a small barrel, so that it had the shape of a miniature drum. One assistant had a shabby tambourine, which he beat and rattled rather tenderly, as though afraid of cracking the parchment. The other had an earthen pot, with a skin stretched across, — a very common drum, and a general favorite with boat-crews and villagers. Even in Cairo, these pot-drums may be heard and seen all over the city; and heard, too, where they cannot be seen, — in the upper apartments of houses,

where family entertainments are held, and jollifications conducted, on a liberal Arabic scale.

The dancing-girls retired into the mud house, stooping to enter a door to an inner apartment, protected by a suspended mat. There was no other opening for the ingress of light. Pretty soon they returned, gayly dressed in a loose light dress, — mere gauze in texture, — of a red color, secured round the waist by a sash of silk, strung with triangular pieces of white metallic plates, the thickness of an English shilling, and an inch and a half in diameter, that jingled and tinkled when they moved. In each hand they held miniature metallic cymbals. Their performance consisted altogether in writhing the body between two fixed points, — the head being one and the feet the other. Being barefooted, — no part of the exhibition requiring the feet to be moved, — their acts were truly disgusting. Why it is called dancing is strange; since their toes are cramped into the mat, while the middle of the body is swayed out of the perpendicular, like a slack rope between two points of attachment. The sudden jerks, tinkle of the belt appendages, and the castanets, made something of a noise; but there was neither music, harmony nor decency, in any of it. All this transpired in a donkey-yard, which was filled with admiring spectators of the village, whose eyes glistened as they watched the bewitching attitudes of the operatic corps, as much as to say, *What do you think of that?* It is perfectly unaccountable how those girls can twist the hips as they do, or elevate one and depress the other, without lifting either foot, or, apparently, shortening their stature, in effecting a feat so extremely difficult. They could make all the muscles of the back and loins quiver, independently of other parts, precisely as horses give a vibratory action to a peculiar muscle they have about the neck and fore-shoulder, for shaking off

flies. They would start by each other, change places, writhe and twist a while, and return to the first position. All these antics excited the liveliest emotions among the lookers-on, of native blood. The admirers increased as the play continued, till a little donkey, quietly grinding millet-stalks at my back, was pushed against me, with a force that obliged me to seek another sitting-place. It was quite as agreeable to be at the ass' heels as in contact with the rabble, whose leisure moments are not unfrequently devoted to hunting vermin. There was an end to the show, as to all entertainments. Civilized showmen take the fee in advance; but the Egyptians ask it at the close. Backshiesh began to ring in our ears; so we paid our assessment, and left. These females were far better-looking than the native women. They were all young; and it does not occur to me that I have ever seen one who could have been more than one or two and twenty. Their features were good, teeth white, skin yellowish, hair black, long and oily, and their facial expression that of the Malay. They travel from one settlement to another, often constructing their own dwellings; and, for their performances, take grain, fresh vegetables, and all the common garden productions.

Nov. 30th. Saturday. — When the reis sent aft for money to pay the guard, — who had passed the night in smoking, as though the fumes of tobacco would keep off robbers, — nothing was given; and he was informed that he might go or remain, as suited his pleasure. He had stopped on his own account, and not ours; — hence he might pursue any course he liked, till the day of reckoning. Soon after, the boat moved. Walking, at an early hour, several miles on the western side, in advance, — passing by a succession of millet-fields, in different stages of growth, — I saw several doum palms, laden with fruit. The leaves are long, spear-shaped, with serrated teeth and prickers

on the edges, which would effectually prevent any one from climbing into their tops. The nuts are cocoa-nuts in miniature. The trees were of the size of apple-trees. Some describe them as beautiful, in their frizzled aspect of defiance; but, to me, they were ugly, motionless things, without a single quality to compare with the rich, soft foliage of trees in the temperate zones. For the first time, I saw long narrow strips of short velvety grass, resembling lawns in Scotland, fed down by sheep; strongly bringing to recollection the short grass door-yards in front of a comfortable old New England farm-house, protected from the road by a slat fence. Saw a drove of sleek, well-fed cattle, with high humps over the fore-shoulder. They had been driven — we understood from one of the drovers — a thousand miles, following the Nile, somewhere above Dongola. At Geezeh, where droves are concentrated for sale, I had previously seen the same breed; but they were lean, weak, and poor in flesh, from the long journey. Fields of halfar-grass, presumed to be a hundred acres in extent, on excellent land, that would yield any kind of grain, were noticed; which shows the population is sparse, and that the soil is neglected, because there are no laborers. On the opposite side of the river, desolation is commencing a triumphant reign. The sand is gradually creeping down, driving man, and even wild animals, from its sterile embrace. Wild geese were increasingly plenty; and crows, too, of a fawn-color. Lizards darted hither and thither; but the serpents kept out of sight: we only saw the tail of one, as it was crawling into a hole. Small scaled fish, four inches long, — fine eating, — are common. They are caught at the mouth of canals, by holding baskets, as the water falls to a lower level. A large, soft fish, the size of a cod of ten pounds' weight, and resembling the catfish of the Mississippi, is frequently caught. Fish seem to swarm; but the apparatus for

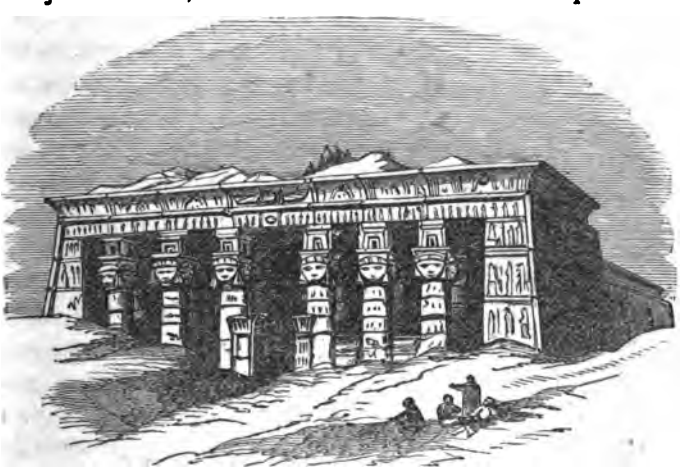
taking them is too poor for much success. We saw a large field under water, retained from the overflow at high Nile, that was being drained, by removing the mud barrier at one extremity. A strainer caught all the fish which followed, a few of which were purchased for dinner. At the great Lake of Harlæm, which engineers were draining by steam-pumps, when I was in Holland, they had a strainer placed where all the water sucked up into the pumps was discharged into a canal, and thus immense quantities of fish were taken that might otherwise have escaped.

Dendera, Dec. 1. — This is another epoch in life; for I have been gratified with a satisfactory examination of the great and celebrated ruins of the sacred edifices of Dendera, opposite the miserable town of Keneh.

After going over and through the interior of three excavated temples, our curiosity was whetted for further developments, — since it is strongly probable that there is more concealed than has yet been brought to light. These massive, splendid buildings, — surpassing in architecture anything Europe ever had, — are not always appreciated by those who are so fortunate as to view them. The pillars on which the flat roof rests are massive and magnificent beyond all I have yet seen. What men, in conception, and in execution, too, those old temple-builders must have been! These great, these surprising achievements, of human skill and industry, — buried for one or two thousand years, for aught that is known to the contrary, — have been partially exposed, by clearing away the sand that encircled them. The principal edifice is cleared of rubbish within, which allows of a pretty free exploration among the massive, lofty, hieroglyphically-covered columns. Even the walls are covered in the same manner, with raised figures, from the floor to the ceiling overhead; and the by passage-ways, and those secret

retreats that were only accessible to the sly old priests who lived within those sacred enclosures. It is difficult to realize how the means could have been procured for meeting the enormous expense of half a dozen of the pillars, aside from all the rest of the temple. Even the reputed wealth of Crœsus would have been exhausted in simply sculpturing the walls, independently of quarrying and transporting the astonishing blocks of which the fabric was composed. No description could do justice to those inimitable specimens of artistical skill. I have already seen enough of architecture in Egypt to convince me that four thousand years to come will not produce their equal. One of the striking facts to be especially remembered, in explaining the manner of temple-building in this country, is this: A stone in a wall has a hammered face inside and out, and is, invariably, just thick enough to make the face of the apartment, where it is covered with hieroglyphical figures, generally in relief. Some of the temples are sculptured on both sides; therefore there is no plastering, no wood, no small stones; but enormous ones,—far, very far, superior in size to any used in modern structures. This was the celebrated building in which the French savans, who accompanied Napoleon to Egypt, discovered the unique planisphere,—one of the main objects of attraction at the public library in the rue Richelieu, at Paris. I had seen it there; but should have been quite overcome with surprise to have been told that I should view the ceiling from whence the glorious trophy was wrenched. There are millions of figures, representing gods and men; some with dog's heads, and others having hawk's bills. It would be absurd to waste a moment in particularizing the high finish and exquisite groupings of the multitudes of figures and characters, which, could they be translated, would greatly humble our pride, and lead to the conviction that we

are far from being as wise as imagined. At some past period, an attempt has been made to obliterate the largest of the sculptures, by picking them over with stone hammers or chisels. Whoever undertook the task doubtless became weary of the work, and left it incomplete. His memory would be anathematized forever, were he known, for his vandalism. Tradition imputes all these, and similar defacements, to the Christians. When they first began to collect about these ruins, they felt a holy zeal inspiring them to obliterate all the memorials of the devil, which these were assumed to be. Thanks to the builders, their faithfulness in whatever they undertook secured enough — broken, buried, bruised and crushed, as it is — to establish their fame imperishably. They intended to transmit their discoveries to all future time; but the language, and the subjects recorded, are both lost in the revolution of empires.



TEMPLE OF DENDERA.

Rain seldom falls here, say the people of Upper Egypt. When the great temple was built, it appears that rain fell copi-

ously sometimes, from the circumstance that the roof, though technically flat, was a series of inclined planes, draining the water in eave-troughs; and from thence it was conducted into tubes, that terminated in the mouths of four couchant lions, projecting from the walls as far as necessary to expose the fore-paws and shoulders,—a grand design. The holy of holies—a distinct and elaborately-finished enclosure, in the centre of a large square apartment, beyond all others, from which we saw the secret outlets up between the walls—was of itself a wonder. Hundreds of generations may have been born, and have died, at Dendera, who never passed the sacred threshold of the mysterious habitation of Horus. It was designed to be artificially lighted, as there are no windows, and but a single door. Neither are there any windows in the walls that surround it. The plan is imitated in modern prisons, where cells are placed in the middle of a hall, about which the officers can freely walk.

I am fully aware of the impression that Egyptian sculpture was declining when these beautiful creations rose into existence; yet they are so far from being inferior, as to challenge the whole world to match them, with all the appliances of modern art.

No locality could have been more charming than the one occupied by these temples, were the landscape as rich and verdant as when their foundations were laid; but the insidious sands, like the stealthy approaches of a boa constrictor, suddenly sprang upon their beautiful victims; and now, all desolate and dreary, their fractured and battered cornices just peep out, to indicate where the traveller is to look for the buried wonders of a former race of men, whose names, whose system of government, whose acts, and whose history, are alike conjectural, and will, we have reason to fear, defy the scrutiny of this or coming ages to expound.

Whenever these vast constructions, so grand, yet imperfectly understood in their details, are unburied, — as they doubtless will be, at a future period, — by some literary adventurer, who has a fortune to devote to the purpose, he will achieve an enviable immortality by their strange developments; and it is not a vagary of a distempered imagination to anticipate that, at Dendera and its associate ruins, the very implements of the laborers, the plans of the architect, the records of a secretive priesthood, golden emblems of their offices, and facts illustrative of the early history of the human race, may be the rich reward of explorations. A village was actually erected on the roofs of these massive temples: the remains of brick houses, two stories high; fractured bricks; stone, rough and quarried; broken pottery, with all the accumulations and the lumber of centuries, was heaped upon those strongly-framed tops, which the inhabitants may have mistaken for solid rock. There they lived and died; there their graves may be recognized; and there the shattered remnants of their dwellings may be seen. And yet they never seem to have had an idea of the vastness, beauty, wonder and marvels, over which they passed their days. The sand, and debris of men and animals, with the warfare of the elements, concealed all these mighty things to the depth of eighty feet below the original level of the ground. Why they abandoned the place, is quite as extraordinary as that they ever occupied it.

It is a full mile from the ruins to the river, — a large alluvian plain intervening, which has probably been deposited by the river, since Dendera was abandoned by its primitive worshippers. There is a gateway of a necropolis, — massive and superb; a mere remnant, however, without a stone of the wall that it was once connected with. Through it splendid processions had moved; royalty and prelatical dignity, with

all that was imposing in the ceremonial worship of Egyptian divinities, had often been seen there, while awe-stricken thousands were looking on from surrounding heights, to scan the majesty of the show. Human bones may be carried off by ship-loads from Dendera, whenever they are in demand. The ancient population must have been dense, from the multitude of graves. There is no parallel in Europe to the accumulation of dead bodies in the ancient burying-fields of Egypt.

After having completed our observations, and made more notes than will ever be referred to, we returned to the boat. There we were greeted by a raft of earthen pots, an acre square, manned as I have seen rafts on the St. Lawrence, and on the Rhine, in Switzerland. Our crew had a merry-making to-day. To the monotonous music of the zummarah, and the accompaniment of the earthen-pot drum, one of their vulgar dances was performed, with all its offensiveness. Only one took the deck floor at a time; but the remainder participated cordially in the festivity, by clapping their hands in unison, and joining in a line of chorus. Ethiopian serenaders are altogether beyond them, in every respect, while the American Indian excels both in dignity and propriety of conduct. The noise and antics were execrable, and immoral in their tendency, giving evidence of a corruption festering still deeper in their natures.

It may be well to mention here, out of place as it may be, that, while groping under the great Dendera temple with a candle, hundreds of little masses were pendant from the under side of the roof, resembling the rudiments of a wasp's nest; but, on minute inspection, they turned out to be stalactites of saltpetre.

With the approach of night, the wind, our solace and power for pursuing the way, quite failed; so we hauled up to the bank again, brought out the beetle, and fastened to a spot

where earthen jars are manufactured, and made into rafts, for down river trade. Some of them were of incredible dimensions. At a distance, we heard the unmusical thumping of a tom-tom. With several of the crew, who were fond of an adventure, — all of whom armed themselves with stalks of the date-tree leaf, one bearing a lantern, — we followed the sound, which led us to an Arab village, more than a mile distant. Just as we reached the lane that led up to where numerous heads could be faintly perceived in outline, we were all tripped up by cords, stretched near the ground, to which donkeys were hampered. On getting out of the tethers, we were assailed by a squadron of furious dogs. When they were disposed of, we came into the midst of a miscellaneous collection of squatting Arabs, at the foot of a little box of a mosque. They were listening to a monotonous recitative of a performer, who added to the zest of the entertainment by a hearty thump upon a tambourine, at the termination of each sentence. The recitation was of a sober, mournful character, from appearances, as the spectators were not excited by it, but rather depressed, if the face was an indication of the workings within. A second man next came before the audience, squatted into a theatrical position, and exhibited his skill. Some of the audience joined in a chorus, occasionally. We were seated on the edge of a water-trough. The females, after watching our movements with severe scrutiny, through their veils, scampered simultaneously off into the darkness beyond. Sheik Abdallah, lord of the settlement, — a noble-bearded specimen of Arabian development, — ordered coffee, and we frequently received a pipe from himself and his honored associates. A whiff was taken, the mouth-piece wiped, and returned, with mutual salaams, of the most approved inclinations of the body. When we smoked, the ladies gathered nearer, as though that act were an indica-

tion of our harmlessness. For the sake of having a light, to see their guests, a messenger was sent into the mosque, to bring out a glass lamp. They all stared at us to their hearts' content. A song was extemporaneously composed, on our auspicious visit, for which the tambourine was passed, to receive the price. Amid the howl of dogs, the braying of an ass, the low obeisance of the consequentials, the shy glances of the females, and the curiosity of the children, — who may never before have seen howadjis, — we departed. The sheik sent three of his retainers, as a guard of honor; a genteel way of getting backshiesh. On the way back, the frogs were peeping, precisely after the New England manner about the middle of May.

Dec. 2d. Monday. — Current too strong for the feeble wind, and no progress made to-day, worth remembering. We are reputed to be within eighteen miles of Thebes, and, therefore, feel a prompting curiosity to reach it speedily. The boat was urged along by poles, — a slow process for persons in haste. While breakfasting, an old, smoking, leather-faced Arab was discovered, forward the camboose, who was announced by Hassan as captain of the guard at Luxor. Coffee was ordered the distinguished visiter; but he had hardly swallowed it, before a second captain of the guard popped up from behind the rubbish. Both came on board in the night. They commenced showing certificates of travellers, testifying to their good properties as guides in the Theban temples. This sufficiently explained their business, and opened our eyes to their character. They had gone down stream, to intercept ascending boats, as pilots go far out in the bay for ships. Orders were given to cut the great men off from a dinner, which forthwith led to their exit into a village. Up and down river, wanderers are accustomed to present themselves, in the capacity of great somebodies to the pasha, for which coffee and back-

shiesh, without stint or limitation, are solicited. They are all impostors, and two-thirds of them vagabonds. Nile dragomen are deeper in the plot of encumbering travellers with assistants than is generally suspected. They are often in collusion with these captains of moonshine, with whom they probably divide whatever they may raise through false pretences. There are neither guards nor guides at Thebes, except those voluntarily assuming the office, for their individual profit.

Passed a town of pigeon-houses, — Negade, — where a Roman Catholic cross is elevated above them all, showing that a few Catholics have a foothold. Mounds of water-jars were to be seen; enough, when broken, — as they will be, — for a mound foundation of a rival settlement. It was extremely warm, to-day; my dress is summer clothing, without stockings. A poor Arab fellah consulted me about a contused eye, injured seven months ago. He brought two ears of roasted corn as a fee! He appeared quite discouraged, when informed the organ could not be restored. Another had a fixed pain in the small of the back, the cause of which was apparent, but beyond my control. The crew, with some of their visiters from Thebes, and the dragoman, have had a world of fun. Alick, the orator, the cleverest of the sailors, and the most trustworthy, gave out a line, which all sang together, whether they had musical voices or not. The air was always the same, sung, or played on an instrument. Arabs are grown-up children, amused with trifles wholly beneath the notice of a tenth-rate intellect. Alick's song, when translated, ran thus: —

Had I a cocoa-nut hooker,
Filled with gold,
And a golden knife,
I would give it all to her
Who is my sweetheart.

When thrown into another form, it becomes a little more harmonious: —

> Had I a golden hooker,
> With precious jewels set,
> All should go to her
> Who comes within my net.
> Or had I other riches, —
> Had I a golden knife,
> An amber pipe, beneath the shade, —
> No joy without a wife.

These are rare examples of love-songs, among a people who purchase their helpmeets as they do other commodities. Even then, their faces are carefully concealed till the contract is sealed. However faithful they may resolve to be, a divorce may follow, the day after the wedding, without their being compelled to assign a reason. The Koran is indulgent to its friends.

Dec. 3d. Tuesday. — Thebes seen faintly in the distance, on the Libyan side of the river, under the shadow of high limestone ledges, rough and jagged. The fellahs, females and all, are precisely, in feature and costume, as they are in Cairo. Customs are unchanging; empires rise and fall, but turbans never. The mud presents different densities, and assumes the forms of the limestone strata, in cracking into blocks very similar in appearance and dimensions. Language, dress, customs, and personal appearance, are here precisely what I found them at Alexandria. The fields change oftener than society. Women are all destined to carry water upon their heads till they yield up the ghost. I have again examined the strata of mud on the west bank, deposited at different epochs, modified by pressure, under the inundation, and by the infiltration of foreign materials held in solution. The stratification of the limestone in the

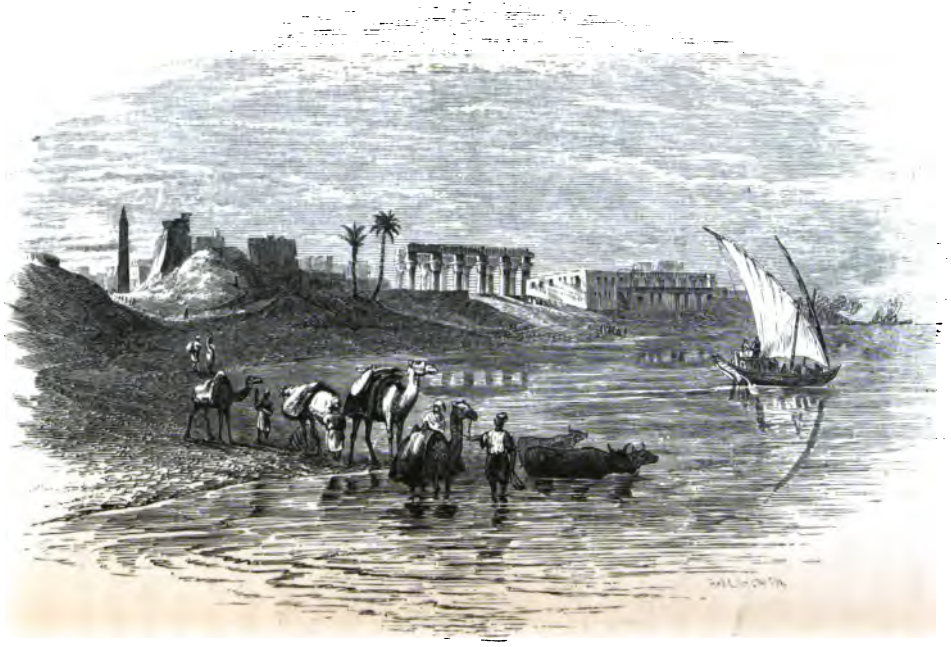
mountain ranges or river barrier was brought about, perhaps, in the same way. They were unquestionably formed by a slowly-retiring sea, or by oceanic currents, charged with the materials of which they are composed, and subsequently elevated by a mighty subterranean force. Passed an Arab who was digging post-holes, to set up a shadoof. The digging was entirely accomplished with his bare hands, without a fragment of a tool. He was thus reduced to the level of a burrowing animal. I have not seen a shovel above Cairo; nor is it probable there is one belonging to a farmer in the valley, from that city to the first cataract.

By some necromancy, one of the self-created guards, ejected *sans ceremonie*, yesterday, reäppeared. A lizard was discovered, running up the bank; and the great guard-man beckoned for Mr. Warren's gun, with which he killed it. Its tongue was forked, and very long, — indicating that it lived on insects. The Theban ruins, fortunately, are less defiled than some others by stables, mud-hovels, turkey-roosts and pigeon-houses. The government — feeble and wretched as it is — ought to be inspired with a desire to preserve those curiosities in art, which still give to Egypt a glory and historical renown that outweigh the archæological attractions of all other countries. They are the life-blood of the pasha's viceroyalty; for, who would subject themselves to discomforts, tediousness of progress, impositions, and expense, to explore the country, were the ruins coëval with the Pharaohs no longer there? Travellers — few as they are — exert a civilizing influence over the benighted regions of Mohammedan darkness; and science, the mechanical arts and modern suggestions, are imperceptibly introduced, to improve, elevate and promote, national prosperity. It is not at all probable that his highness cares a fig for civilization; nor are there reasons for suspecting that he sees

an inch beyond the present political degradation of his people. There is no future to him; no prospective encouragements of improvement. The maxims of the East are at variance with the laws of Christianity, and, therefore, are eminently selfish; and the policy of every ruler is to get all he can, regardless of the wants, necessities, miseries, or claims, of his subjects.

Hauled up at Luxor. I was in a state of ecstatic bewilderment, at the grandeur and unsuspected majesty of the remains. The obelisk in front of the more than half-buried temple is similar to Cleopatra's Needle, and is as perfect as on the day of its erection. Its sides are polished to the smoothness of glass; the angles are sharp, and the hieroglyphics bold and distinct. Those stolen monoliths set up in Paris and Constantinople — which I have examined — are rough, in comparison. Perhaps twenty or thirty feet of the base — like the feet and bodies of the sitting statues, behind, concealed by millions of cart-loads of filth — may be in excellent preservation. Karnak, a mile and a half distant, on the same side of the river, looms up, with the imposing features of a great fortress. Thebes is directly opposite Luxor, on the Libyan side. When the sun went down, this evening, behind the serrated mountains to the west of Thebes, the splendor of its pure rays was glorious. We stopped just long enough to run through the temple, and among the columns of Luxor; for the wind sprang up suddenly, and we sped on our way still further up the river. We had resolved to improve every blast, to hasten the accomplishment of the voyage to the first cataract; knowing it to be an easy matter to float back with the current. And it was understood, too, that whatever was missed should be investigated on our return, when there would be no anxiety in regard to movements preying upon us.

Guides flocked down to the boat in shoals, annoying us



LUXOR, FROM THE WATER. Page 166.

excessively with their importunities, and requests to have their quires of recommendations read. They were in the way, go where we would; nor could they be shaken off. Gentlemen who carry guides with them all the way from Malta or Alexandria are to be commiserated. It is emphatically carrying coals to Newcastle. Passed a gayly-rigged and admirably-manned boat, belonging to a son of that old fighting monster, Ibrahim Pasha. Of these he left three, by different mothers, of three different colors,— namely, black, white, and brown! We passed a slave-boat, also, with a stolen cargo of girls, from some part of the interior of Africa, quite beyond the explorations of any traveller. They were the blackest of black negroes, and had beautifully white, even teeth, with their hair — frizzled into kinks — braided, as near as they could do it, into little whip-cord masses, sticking out at all known mathematical angles. A mere remnant of a coarse Arab blanket, held together by their hands, covered them. They had bracelets on their wrists, trinkets suspended from their foreheads, and perhaps some may have had ear-rings. Wretched as they were, the love of jewelry, or those affixes which even civilized females fancy enhances their charms, was predominant with those poor, ignorant, abused creatures, who were *en route* to a market, to be sold as beasts are in a pen, from whence they enter a state of bondage from which death alone can emancipate them. A few boys may have been with them; but they are not so profitable as females, and therefore the latter are always preferred, because, in every Mussulman town, they quickly have a purchaser. They laughed in concert at our — to them — odd costume,—especially our hats, which were quite as absurd to them as theirs to us. Their smoking masters were squatting about the deck, enjoying the spectacle, in common with their cargo.

In all countries I have visited, — among savages, the demi-civilized, and the most refined, — woman adorns herself, if possible. It is inbred; and all the efforts made to bring their vanity, in this respect, into subjection to reason, by preaching the beautiful sentiment of the poet who could not afford to buy diamonds for his wife, "When unadorned, adorned the most," has, in no instance, overcome the inherent love of ornament.

While stepping over and between the nuisances collected round the pillars in Luxor, in a narrow passage, I came suddenly upon a female, seated on a pile of filth, and leaning her back against a superb column, who was singularly bedecked and ornamented. The most prominent of all her jewels was

a brass hoop, three-fourths of an inch in diameter, strung with a variety of colored glass beads, and which was suspended from the right wing of her nose. Inconvenient as it must have been,

had she not been thoroughly convinced that it heightened her personal charms, it would never have been tolerated a single moment. There I left her, satisfied that the dignity of her position, and the tasteful arrangement of her treasures, must have raised her to an enviable distinction in the estimation of the vulgarians of her own sex, who could not indulge themselves with a hoop in their noses.

One boat, only, laid at Thebes, on our arrival, controlled by a solitary, a Col. Measures, of the British army, who arrived the day before, and was to leave immediately. At his request, we took some salt on board, for a friend at Assuan, the ancient Syene.

Dec. 4th. Wednesday. — We had nothing to do but gaze at whatever we passed. Much is to be learned by scrutinizing the faces of the men and women we meet, — the descendants of those mighty ones who preceded us on the old beaten track of nations. Writing becomes extremely irksome, even to keep up my diary.

Cheered by the growing prospect of a good run through the last night, the wind began to roar across the broad plain, which so frightened the reis that he made fast with the pin and beetle, in spite of our remonstrances. Nile sailors, in our experience, are notorious cowards. They might accomplish a voyage in much less time, had they common resolution. It is their way to be as long as they can in doing everything; for time is of no account with them. Passed another sugar-making establishment, in process of erection, about twenty-five miles from Thebes, owned by the notable who went by us in the gay boat. Being a relative of the pasha, he was presented with the plantation and the neighboring village, from whence he will force laborers to do his bidding. A fine harem is being finished, near by. It is the first care of an Egyptian gentleman to have

a well-stocked household. His influence and standing is intimately connected with a flourishing domestic establishment, if we are to believe what is stated by persons familiar with the organization of society, in connection with what is seen. He is a single man, but acting in accordance with an often-quoted English proverb, — First get a cage, and then buy the bird. Tradition points to the back part, or, rather, western side of this recently given-away village, as the birthplace of Moses. On going ashore, a circle of Arabs were squatting round a straw fire; six out of seven of them had lost the fore-finger of the right hand, at the second joint. The feeling which induced this voluntary mutilation seems to have pervaded the entire population during the reign of Mohammed Ali; and yet they all lament his death; for he was just, they say; and they now find an apology for the severity of his measures in the exigencies of the times in which he lived. After he commenced taking the maimed into the public service, and it was settled that cutting off a finger or obliterating an eye would be no excuse, the practice was abandoned.

While passing the new sugar-house, which has a flat roof, on and about which masons were at work, we observed little Arab girls carrying mortar, in trays, upon their heads. A strapping black fellow, in a milk-white, flowing cotton frock, and a fiery-red tarbousch, and armed with a formidable long whip, stood on one corner, to maintain order, and quicken the movements of the children thus reduced to the condition of beasts of burden. In Cairo, I have seen women mixing mortar with their hands; and long files of small girls carrying it to the tops of buildings, who were awed and quickened in their labors by overseers flourishing flexible whips.

Dec. 5th. Thursday. — Just as the sun was setting, — than which a more glorious sight cannot be witnessed in Europe or

America, in the splendor that marks its going down in the clear atmosphere of this section of Africa, — we came in view of Esne, a town particularly distinguished for being the place of exile for all the dancing-girls of Lower Egypt. An orthodox party of Moslems were so shocked with their performances, that it was not a difficult matter to effect their removal, by appealing to the pasha. I cannot, however, understand why a care for the public morals necessarily implies, among these people, such a movement. One of the old pasha's whitewashed houses, with Christian windows, nicknamed a palace, — as every building is that is not made of mud, — looked prettily at the lower end of the town. Nothing bears close inspection, in Egypt, but its ancient ruins; and they improve upon near acquaintance. An old Roman wharf, of hewn stone and brick masonry, immensely strong, — for that people slighted nothing that was designed for public utility, — shows that they invariably improved the natural advantages for business and war, in whatever place they established themselves. It has tottered and keeled over, like the empire of the Cæsars; but the abutments, and great masses of adherent brick and mortar, are eloquent of departed glory.

Fifteen miles further up, is a site of an old town, conjectured to have been Chorubis, with another Roman wharf, of hewn stone, indicating, as in the first, the thoroughness of those hardy conquerors of the world. But time and the Nile — two irresistible forces, which human ingenuity cannot control — are wearing it into oblivion. Immense numbers of grotto doors were seen along our present course, leading into the mountain-side. They were, no doubt, ancient tombs.

And here I cannot forbear alluding to the splendor of the stars in the firmament over our heads. The whole canopy above was resplendent with beauty. Each and every

planet seemed nearer the earth than I have ever been accustomed to see them in other climates. There was neither mist, haze nor storm, to obscure their perpetual brightness. Why the astronomers do not go there, with their instruments, is surprising. There would be neither detention by foul weather, nor obscurations by flying clouds. It is impossible to say how much they might accomplish, with their telescopes, in a single season, in this pure atmosphere. If poets and the first astronomers studied the elements of the noble science of astronomy in Egypt and Syria, under a transparent sky, — a camel's back the first observatory, — what might not be achieved, in this intellectual epoch, with modern telescopes, at Thebes, Luxor, and Karnak?

In sailing past Edfou, we had a good view of the pylon of a majestic temple, — to be visited on our return. A misfortune of a serious character soon after overtook us; for I overset a bowl of custard, an essential part of a dinner. Eggs are the only edibles, in this filthy country, which are clean. It was, therefore, a serious loss, since it is unreasonable to expect another, or a clean substitute; and, to enlarge the catalogue of woes, Ali dropped the coffee-pot overboard. Besides these troubles, every saucer was broken; so that our table assumed a shabby appearance. My grief was measurably assuaged in the amusement of modelling a bacchanalian head in Nile mud. The crew seemed marvel-struck that mud could put on the expression of humanity. They frequently came aft to laugh over it. My personal friends, familiar with the activity of my organs of imitation, will understand this. Although I make not the least pretension to skill as an artist, it is perfectly easy for me to model a face of any person, in a short time, which shall have the expression of the original.

Dec. 6th. Friday. — Had a satisfactory run all night.

Passed Ombus, at sunrise. Saw the old Ptolemaic temple, on the Arabian side; and, at eight o'clock, were informed that we should arrive at the first cataract by evening. Came to a village, in which a man had just died. There was a general howling by the women, that might have been heard at a great distance. We were informed that the mourning, in this manner, sometimes continues several days. Coffins are out of the question, where wood is scarce, and boards rarely ever seen, unless brought from Europe. Most of the hills are quite low, — mere swells, compared with the lofty, rugged barrier-rocks lower down the river. The Nile was obviously smaller, but not more rapid, than at Cairo or Atfeh; nor was it thought to be deep. I am impressed with the idea that the Nile is fed by subterranean branches, that enter the common channel; and that those out-of-sight contributors flow beneath the limestone underlying the sands of both deserts, below the first cataract.

In consideration of being near the conclusion of the voyage, — having proposed to end it at the island of Philæ, above the cataract, in the province of Nubia, — which was the Ethiopia of the ancients, — we ordered our boon friend, a turkey, to be dressed for dinner. Being too large for the receiving apparatus, it was halved, and brought on, like a peeled orange, to resemble a whole one. Who would not dine on turkeys in Egypt, at seventeen cents' cost? A crowning part of the entertainment — altogether an extra one, in point of taste and variety — was a minute pudding. The cook knew nothing about the dish; but, a little bag of flour being in the locker, it devolved on me to manufacture it. Such a pudding was no every-day affair. Mr. Holland and Mr. Warren had the politeness to keep their countenances; but there was no disguising the fact that swallowing a mouthful of it was an extraordinary feat, for

it went down with extreme reluctance, and against the will of the stomach. However, it was christened an economical pudding; because what was not eaten was used to paste up the back of a torn book. Hassan wished to know if it was an American pudding.

Coming to a sparse settlement, close to the river, on a narrow strip of alluvium, two of the sailors wished to land and visit their friends, promising to overtake us at Assuan. We gave each of them an empty bottle, a few figs and apricots, and some tobacco, as presents to those they were to visit. Poor fellows! they had been absent a year, — and what could they carry home, at one dollar a month? One was born here, and the other a few miles further on. One had a divorced sister, — as every one has who has a sister, — and the other a wife. Their meeting with them was cordially affectionate and touching. They were Nubians. They have a keen sense of the ridiculous, and are less selfish than the Arabs. Though jet black, they seem to mix blood with others, and intermarry with Arabs and Abyssinians.

Dec. 7th. Saturday. — Reached Assuan, pronounced *As-wan* by the natives. It is the ancient Syene, referred to in the book of Ezekiel. Syenite takes its name from this town, where granite was wrought, between three and four thousand years ago, with a facility that puts to blush the best attempts of this age, with its tools of steel. The masons of that day had copper chisels, the art of hardening which is now lost. Assuan is the true terminus of Nile navigation by boats of the first class. A smaller class of boats can be dragged through and up the cataract, which is done, a few times, every season. Opposite, is the island of Elephantis. It has a governor, and is a large town, with ruins extending every way, and almost everywhere, indicative of a former great city. Sweep the edifices of every kind

from the city of Boston, or tip them all over into the streets, cellars and wells, and, at the end of five hundred years, when all the best remnants of stone, pillars, mouldings, brick, &c., had been pilfered and removed, some conception might be formed of the wide desolation of the rough mounds on which stood ancient Syene. Elephantis is precisely in the same condition. We have no parallel for the appearance; consequently, it is no easy matter for a person who has not surveyed the ruins with his own eyes to comprehend the desolation.

Elephantis is a natural mound, enlarged by the inhabitants who have resided upon it. The river flows all around it; and, at the time of the inundation, it must be extremely hazardous to cross to the main land. Things were once on a colossal scale on that little island. I scarcely know what we saw, because there was so much that was exciting, on account of its connection with the past. There were sarcophagi, cut in the old red granite boulders; there were high, strong gateways, great stones, and fragmentary sculptures; the remnant of an old Roman bridge, that went across to Assuan,—the abutments of which are still firm, made of stones, bearing symbols, that, could they speak, would relate strange events, that occurred in their youth. We ranged over Assuan, went into the bazaars, and, for the first time in my life, I saw what I had never seen before; but a regard for decency forbids me to relate what is true in regard to public morals. We were stoned in the streets, by a rabble of Arab boys, who fired their missiles from the walls, and from behind street-gates. In haste to retreat, we came upon a company of respectable-looking Arabs, smoking round a gate, who interfered. They forbade the incipient haters of Christians from moving an inch further, and we quietly returned to our quarters on board. A group of children —many of them little girls, from five to ten years of age—

followed us wherever we rambled over the island of Elephantis, with various articles to sell. Some had pieces of ancient blue glass, small bronze figures, metallic beetles, seals, ancient coins, &c., which they are continually finding, by rolling over stones, removing masses of brick, or excavating below walls. The girls had a narrow belt round the loins, with a pendulous fringe, — swaying and flying, in their antics, — without a particle of any other covering. They had good features, black, restless eyes, and were perfectly elastic in their movements.

Having sufficiently surveyed Assuan, we concluded to take donkeys for the upper side of the cataract, and not attempt to drag the boat over the rapids, between rocks, and through whirlpools. At the foot of the cataract, at the water's edge, which may be termed the port of Assuan, boats of various sizes — some from Cairo, and the intermediate places, and a few from above, that came down through the cataract — were made fast to the bank. Merchants from Abyssinia and Dongola, and people of strange features and strange languages, were packing and unpacking merchandise on the sandy shore. Coarse cottons, of gay colors, Arab shoes for females, the ugly yellow morocco boots, clumsy red morocco shoes, — peaked-toed, of course, — dates, tobacco, gaudy-colored calicoes, &c. &c., were heaped up in profusion. There was one gayly-painted tent, to protect a slave-dealer. An air of activity prevailed, and novelty reigned through the whole. At this aquatic mart, a tall, finely-developed Abyssinian, black as charcoal, finely-featured, with pearl-white, even teeth, noticing my gloves, as I was walking slowly where he and his assistants were re-packing goods, begged permission to look at my "hand-cases," as he called them, having never before seen any. They were a poor, ripped and torn pair of kids; and it was a subject of profound regret that a better specimen was not at hand.

They were inspected with careful attention. Not being able to introduce their own broad-spread hands, it was a source of amusement to them to have me put them off and on. This man could write Arabic, but, as nearly as I could understand, he had never heard of America. He wanted to know where I came from, and how far it was to my country. After various devices to make him comprehend, the figures 6000 were made with a pencil, when he expressed his astonishment at the distance, — evidently comprehending that 6000 meant a measure that conveyed the idea of a great distance. He once asked if I came from *Eënglëëse*. We exchanged cards; he took mine, and carried it up the Nile, while his is still among my effects. Donkeys being procured, for going round the cataract, we started, at an early hour, to make the jaunt. Our destination was the island of Philæ, once regarded as the holiest place in Egypt. After ascending and passing over extensive ruins, such as are nowhere else seen, — cellars, underpinning, broken granite shafts, hewn stone, broken bricks and pottery, the never-failing indications of the localities once in the occupancy of the old inhabitants, — we came to an Arab burying-ground, which, it was supposed, embraced a hundred acres. The number of graves was startling; for it was certain that the dead exceeded the living by scores of thousands. The population about the cataract, at some remote period, must have been half a million, if not more, in order to have peopled the city whose circuit we surveyed. The island of Elephantis — where wealth, luxury and refinement, were indicated in the character of its last remnants of crumbling ruins — cannot be described. Old sheik-tombs, some white and fresh, and others dilapidated and tumbling to pieces, were dotted about, extending to the outskirts, and perched upon all the principal commanding eminences. Grave-stones — about two feet and a half long, by one

in width, lying flat upon the surface — were strewn about in profusion. Their inscriptions were Kuphic, and the characters in relief. I should have attempted to bring one away, had it not been intimated that it would not be allowed. Saw a stack of them, that had been collected together, probably when the graves they originally covered could no longer be designated. A broad highway extends from the back side of ancient Syene to within a mile of E'Shallal, which is the port, situated above the rapids, in a kind of basin, out of reach of the action of the current. Boats coming down the Nile, with dates and other products, and staves, are usually disembarked here, and carried on asses down to Assuan. We passed droves of miniature donkeys, laden, bound for the trade-boats below the falls. There was a deal of bustle; gayly-painted tents of slave-dealers; troops of women, boys, children and up-river people, all busily bartering, trading, and exchanging commodities. A woman ran by the side of my fast-ambling donkey, intent upon selling me a clumsy silver bracelet, which she took from her wrist, for which she asked the modest sum of three dollars. The work was curious; and, as a specimen of the ingenuity of the silversmiths of Ethiopia, it would have been gratifying to have brought it away. We no sooner came to the water, than there was a tussle among rival boatmen for a job. The strife would have been alarming to persons unaccustomed to the ferocious gabble of excited Arabs. All the way up the great road, — which may have been made three thousand years, — it was very certain that human industry had singularly triumphed over the obstacles placed in the way by nature. Vast boulders had been removed, quarried, and pulverized, to give a clear passage. There was a brick wall all the distance where there was a desert exposure, to keep the sand from drifting on the track. We saw enormously large boulders of red granite, that

had been partially hewn; sarcophagi, half finished, and abandoned, on account of an injury. The same figures, characters and symbolic expressions, found on the obelisks, and on all the old public works, are cut upon the stones. The chisel-marks are fresh as though made the day before. We were quite overwhelmed at the amazing indications of the industry of the stone-masons on this region of boulders. Were I to relate all we saw, and the deductions made from observations, there would be no reasonable limits to this diary.

E'Shallal is seven miles from Assuan, which corresponds with the distance from the lower to the upper end of the Falls of St. Anthony, between Fort Snelling and the falls; and the same, too, that exists between Lewiston and the Falls of Niagara. It is a singular circumstance that these three cataracts, the most remarkable on the continents of Africa and America, have receded seven miles each from the points where geologists suppose they were originally established. We took one of the best job-boats, dirty, broad and uninviting as it was, raised the American flag on a stick at the stern, and away the bare-legged fellows pulled for Philæ. They sang an extemporaneous song, in honor of America, to gratify the vanity of their customers; but, not then knowing a word of the language, and not more of the sentiment, it was all lost upon us. They did not mean it should be lost to themselves, however, for they begged for backshiesh lustily, at the conclusion of the excursion.

As we approached Philæ, young, supple Arabs, entirely naked, lying on a log of date-tree wood, to buoy them up, swam out to us, playing as nimbly as sharks round the boat, beseeching to be taken as guides. I threw bits of hard bread into the water, for the sake of witnessing their activity in picking them up. E'Shallal is a miserable place, without a house; but an air of business activity reigns at the landing. The river

is narrow, not swift, and by no means very deep. Bales of goods, gum copal, dates, moss, and a variety of products from Africa, including human beings, were on sale, or soon would be, when arrived at their places of destination. Every one was seated on the ground, smoking, except those compelled to stand, to negotiate. When we were seated in the passage-boat, and raised our eyes to the scenery that surrounded us, we were astonished at the wildness, beauty and novelty, of the prospect. We noticed many a painted picture on the rocks, that may have been defying the elements more than four thousand years; but they are, nevertheless, quite fresh and bright in coloring, under the ceilings of some of the royal colonnades of Philæ. Philæ appears always to have been a small island, surrounded by the Nile, on which the wealth of monarchs and the influence of priests were lavished, with a profuse liberality unparalleled in these days of rigid economy. Walls, obelisks, majestic temples, covered by hieroglyphics, and some of the rarest specimens of ancient architectural excellence in sculpture, present themselves for contemplation, to surprise, astonish, and admonish us. At the top of the propylon of the great temple, — surpassingly magnificent in the day of its beauty and glory, and still a wonder such as the world rarely sees, — I raised the American flag. For the first time, the stars and stripes of the great republic of America waved where they had never before; and the ignorant Arab fellahs who saw them no doubt queried in their minds what could have been intended by the exhibition. On the inside of the massive east temple was the following inscription: —

"Philæ. — 24. 3. 45.
Paris. — 30. 16. 22. Balzac. F. R. Aug 7."

Below,

"John Fuller, five months from Addwar, in Abyssinia, after being in that country 14 years, in the service of the Earl of Mountnonis and H. Salt, Esq. March 31, 1819."

The mighty ruin on which we stood — the design of architects and subtle priests, executed by artists of consummate skill — was a ruin long before any of the present nations in Europe had existence. The continent of America, with all its geological, political, commercial and social importance, — in our time so large and so rich in resources, — was not known for some thousands of years after Philæ had passed its climacteric.

Philæ may possibly contain six acres of land, every inch of which is covered by stately edifices, in the highest style of ancient Egyptian excellence. It is quite irregular in shape; and the water-walls, to defend it from the action of the river, conform to the irregular line. After completing the examination, climbing up, going through narrow, dirty passage-ways, and down into holes where no one would go for anything short of gratifying an insatiable curiosity, we crossed over to the island of Bigger, directly opposite, — a rocky, rough spot, — where there are remains of something beautiful in architecture, but what, no one can divine. Such elaborate cuttings, such fragments of sculpture in the hardest stone, settle the question in respect to the perseverance of those who accomplished these lasting memorials of human industry and folly, should it ever be agitated. A troop of naked children, and skinny, bony women, with a few boys, beset us, with a spirit of determination, for backshiesh, which quickened our pace, and hastened the departure. About Bigger, up and down the river, and on the shore of the Arabian desert side, granite boulders, of great magnitude, were piled up two or three hundred feet, it was estimated, as though giants had placed them in that position, — as children pile up pebbles, — for amusement. They indicated the intense

action of heat, being black on the eastern side, and completely vitrified, like glass. Such a phenomenon is rarely, if ever, seen in other parts of the world. In the river, on its banks, and at the angle where the two branches, that flow each side of Philæ, reünite, to form the island, these boulders are covered with ancient inscriptions, with symbolic characters, precisely like those seen in and about the temples and monuments; but of a rude description, as though executed by inferior workmen, to idle away time. Between three and four thousand years have passed away since their execution; yet all the chisel-marks are fresh, and apparently newly-cut. Similar markings are seen on the boulders in the desert, and on high ledges above Syene, and even on the great bed of granite that juts out into the Nile, just above the landing-place at Assuan. In short, the traces of the ancient Egyptians abound, wherever there are masses of rocks. On the faces of several imposing rocks were the same symbolical characters, and the pictures of men, with hawks' and dogs' heads,—appearing to have been quite recently engraven.

On the return to Assuan, we deviated a little from the track of the grand broad way road, to view a granite obelisk, in the quarry, which, for some cause, after being hewn, was left, and never afterwards sought. It is known as the rejected obelisk. Probably a change on the throne, a movement of the priesthood adverse to the undertaking, or the demands of a war, might have interrupted the process. It is well hammered, and supposed to be over ninety feet in length by eight square at the base. It is of the common coarse gray granite. It should be exposed, by digging away the sand, to ascertain if it is still attached to the quarry. I was struck with what had been accomplished, on every side, upon granite; while agriculture —on which the importance of Egypt must have necessarily

depended — might have been quite neglected. For full half a mile, on either side of the wide road, on our return route to Assuan, the energy of the ancient stone-workers was exhibited. Immense blocks were scattered about promiscuously, having the fresh chisel-cuts for the insertion of the wooden wedges by which they were split, appearing as though but recently executed. Rocks on the island of Bigger, and on the eastern desert, opposite Philæ, are strongly marked and engraven, with the self-same class of hieroglyphics everywhere distinguishable, but of ruder finish, on obelisks, temples and monuments, of all descriptions, throughout the land.

We were safely back at Assuan, in good time for a full exploration of the island of Elephantis, where the massive gateway, and the steps leading down to the old Nilometer, — made of red granite, wrought with as much care and facility as if it were of ivory, — put into the shade the best efforts of our day in hard stone. By degrees we reviewed Assuan, — went to the slave-mart, only a colored woman and her three children being on sale. A tax is here collected on all slaves brought into Egypt. They cannot be conveyed further down the river till the duty is paid, which amounts to a very considerable revenue for the treasury of Abbas Pasha.

About sunset, as we were leisurely seated on our divan, — a raised wooden bench, which also served as our bed by night, — the Governor of Assuan, with his suite, called on board. This was an unexpected event, and not a common occurrence. After a formal introduction, accompanied by low bows, with the right hand across the breast, his excellency and party seated themselves, in oriental manner, on the divan. The passage-way between the benches was narrow, at the terminus of which was a very small room, used for a harem by the officer who had the boat for a trip before we contracted for it. It

was in the extreme stern, small and inconvenient. The divan filled it nearly full. In that snug apartment were my effects and lodgings. His great highness — who was a little nervous man, with sandy hair, very un-Turk like, with a beard of the same color — peeped into each hiding-hole; and when the salutations were concluded, pipes were raised, with difficulty, for so many guests, by borrowing of the pilot; but, after a while, all hands began to smoke, in dignified silence. Next, Hassan raised some coffee, piping hot; and then a general conversation ensued, which was translated for both parties by the dragoman. His excellency begged a little tobacco, of course; made some inquiries in regard to our country; and, when he understood distinctly where it was, he rolled his little gray eyes towards the zenith, and exclaimed, Bis millah — God is great! He wore a golden miniature anchor, suspended by a ribbon. We were informed that he had been an officer in the army. In his suite was a tall, black Abyssinian, of grave aspect, and two others, tolerably white, — Turks, I imagined, — who were sufficiently obsequious to his excellency to show they were dependants. It occurred to me to enter a complaint against the rabble of insulting boys who had given us such annoyance in the streets; but, fearing he might order them flogged to death, — knowing the severity of the mildest punishments, in a despotism, — nothing was said about it. After a proper time, and in good taste, the gentlemen took their leave. The occasion was improved for making some statistical inquiries in regard to population, products, prospects and resources, of Upper Egypt. The population of Assuan, the governor told us, was five thousand seven hundred. It seemed to me that this was an exaggerated account; for three thousand would require more ample accommodations than exist in the town. He may have included several small villages, and the dependencies, — including the river

strangers. His district extended from Keneh to Philæ, — a little short of two hundred miles. The governor made some inquiries about the government of our country, and observed that the flag flying on the boat was the first of the kind he had seen at Assuan the present season. The general principles of the government of the United States were explained; and when assured that the pashas of provinces — equivalent to governors — were elected by the people, and, if these did not answer their expectations, and were bad rulers, the people removed them, and thus made them powerless, he was evidently surprised; for he again exclaimed, God is great! He was curious to know how the chief pasha of the whole country obtained his position; and, on being informed that he was a man standing upon the universal level, without hereditary privileges, and also elected by popular suffrage, on account of his presumed qualifications, his little excellency again puffed out the smoke in a voluminous cloud, and repeated the old exclamation, Bis Millah, as on all occasions when astonished. He inquired what our books said about the ruins of Philæ. Mr. Holland told him that our Koran (Bible) spoke of Egypt, so that every child in our country knew something of its ancient history. He at once remarked that our prophet, Jesus Christ, he believed to have been a good man; and that he would fight side by side with Mohammed, for the people, in the end.

I have noticed, in all conversations with the most intelligent and pious Mussulmans, they are free to admit that the Saviour — with whose name they appear familiar — was next in rank to Mohammed, in point of influence and dignity. But they never can divest themselves of the idea of fighting for the establishment of both the Christian and Moslem faith. Heaven is

to be obtained by an effort of arms, as well as by prayers, and a pilgrimage to Mecca. Fighting for religion is a part and parcel of the history of the origin and diffusion of Mohammedanism; and its maintenance must depend upon the same system that brought it into its present form; because, when the intellect is developed, and Moslems begin to reason, they will also begin to acquire the elements of Christianity, which must be a death-blow to all confidence in the falsehoods of the Koran.

Dec. 8th. Sunday. — Took our departure from Assuan at an early hour. An English traveller arrived, as we were unmooring, who intended to look at Philæ, and return next day. Our reis commenced some of his pranks of imposition in about two hours, — the crew refusing to row, because the wind blew. We threatened to carry him before the first pasha we should find, and even contemplated returning to enter a complaint to our friend, the governor. The design of the reis was to prolong the voyage, in order to get more money than he could expect by despatching business in the accustomed manner.

At four o'clock in the afternoon, we had drifted down to Kom Ombus, sixteen miles. Going on shore, we examined the gigantic columns, and parts of a great temple, dedicated to Ptolemy and Queen Cleopatra, his sister, &c., — a ruin that bids defiance to all description. There is not a house, shanty, or even the habitation of a human being, to be seen, where was once a city; and this temple, which has withstood the assaults of ages, and of barbarous men and travellers, excites the liveliest sentiments of admiration. The attainments of the artisans and architects of the remote epoch when this magnificent structure stood in all its classical proportions and beauty, — the object of admiration for a long series of ages, — were very extraordinary. This massive and very costly building — that must have required the constant and indefatigable labor

of thousands of the first artists of the time, for forty or fifty years—contained two holies of holies. It was raised wholly at the expense of the infantry that was quartered, during its erection, at Ombus, which was one of the eminent military stations, and the centre of an extensive military district, during the joint reigns of the brother and sister—who were also husband and wife—referred to in an inscription, still legible. Under the ceiling of the magnificent portico of this imposing creation of men, some of the designs in coloring were never completed; but the outlines, in red chalk, are still fresh and distinct, as though but just made. I was so full of astonishment at the sight of these ancient ruins, that have outlived everything else, that it quite destroyed all the veneration that had previously been acquired for the antiquities of Rome. Pompeii and Herculaneum, with all their wonders and buried treasures, which I had wandered over with feverish eagerness, melted into utter insignificance in comparison with Kom Ombus.

We spent some time in reflection over two beautifully-sculptured stones, twenty feet long, eight in width, and nearly eight thick. How they had been transported from the quarry is a matter of speculation; for, even with our modern improvements in derricks, and boats for burden, it would be very difficult to handle these enormous blocks. But the next query was this: How were they raised up the steep bank of the river, and then elevated to their position in the structure? In regard to the great blocks of which the roof was composed, the same perplexity arises. Many of them would weigh — so thought all of us — from twenty to fifty tons, if not more. This is, indeed, a marvellous story to relate; but I might give a series of facts that came within the particular scope of my professional observation, in regard to the moral tone of society, that would be taken with such distrust that I dare not even state some of

the smaller facts, by way of illustrating the social organization, or, rather, social toleration of enormities, feeling it might subject me to the abuse of those who would be disposed to question the relation. I feel it wise to say nothing, rather than to involve myself in controversies with persons who know nothing of the subject, but who might be disposed to question the assertions of those who brave public opinion by stating what every traveller knows to be true who investigates the structure of society in unchristian countries.

The propylon, the imposing gateway, — lofty enough for the entrance of the gods, — is fast going into the river. The current has undermined the advance sub-structure, and some massive and unequalled specimens of ancient sculpture, and primitive outline drawings in colors, have already been swallowed up by the insatiable Nile. Thirty years will wholly obliterate the last remains of this magnificent, wonderful, and unique edifice, unless the government speedily lends a helping hand, and defends it against the steady assaults of the river, and the ruthless devastations of foreign visiters. Monster temple as it was, it has diminished in volume; and, though it holds itself erect and dauntless between two never-resting foes, — the sands of Arabia upon its back, and the swift-flowing waters of the river in front, — it must, at no very remote period, give way, after a resistance of many a century of abandonment.

A grand prospect of distant mountain scenery opened upon our excited vision from the top of the old temple, and the walls that enclosed the sacred edifice. In another direction, the aspect was desolate; for there was a wide waste of millions upon millions of acres of arid, heated sand, that defied vegetation, and is now threatening the concealment, in its constrictor embrace, of one of the finest specimens of architecture the world

can boast. One of our sailors picked up the cast skin of a serpent six feet in length, indicating that loathsome reptiles are the permanent, undisturbed occupants of a spot once sacred to the gods of Egypt. A solemn worship, in the darkness of paganism, was instituted and practised where we were standing: but the smoke of the altars has gone out; the holy vestments and priestly apparatus are nowhere to be found; and the stillness of death marks the locality where the voices of thousands were heard, in the ecstasies of heathen enthusiasm, in praise of imaginary deities, whose attributes were the passions of men, with the characters of devils.

Where the boat lay while the foregoing explorations were being made was a shadoof, about which were several perfectly naked children, pretty well grown. A sense of shame seemed never to have been developed either in them, or others in that condition. I saw half-grown girls at E' Shallal, as at Elephantine, who had a fringed belt round their loins, the pendant threads of which hung down an inch or two only below the hips, without any other clothing. Several adults — laboring men — were clothed as the Irish clergyman described the Carrickfergus beggars, in nothing but nakedness.

The boatman spoken of as having had permission to go on shore at his native village, on the way to Assuan, failed to be there, as promised; and, on returning, when opposite the village, finding he was not forthcoming, as expected, Hassan, with the yawl, made a landing, for an inquiry for the non-appearing man. To his amazement, he learned that the poor fellow had been held a prisoner, ever since he left us, by the sheik, for not having paid the pasha's tax. Hassan represented the case of his engagement with us, and the consequences that would positively accrue to himself, — disastrous in the extreme, — if he thus detained the hired servant of a traveller, in violation

of the well-known regulations of the pasha's government. The reasoning prevailed, simply because the sheik was afraid our representations might subject himself to the bastinado; and the frightened prisoner was liberated without a flogging, contrary to custom, upon promising to pay in millet, or something else equally good, on his next trip up the Nile.

Dec. 9th. Monday. — Since our declamatory confab with the reis yesterday, and the threat to take him before the next pasha on the route, the boat has floated down quite cheerily. For a few hours the wind was tempestuous, and not unlike being at sea, — for I became sick. Orders were given for stopping at the sandstone quarries of Silsilis. About three o'clock this morning, we hauled up directly under the ledge. A long walk, after daylight, and an hour given to the inspection, was satisfactory. It was at this quarry, and another, nearly opposite, on the other side of the river, that the ancient Egyptians procured all the great and massive blocks of sandstone for Kos Ombus, Luxor, and, indeed, for almost every structure in which that material was used. Hundreds of thousands of men must have wrought in these quarries, to have made so many deep and extraordinary excavations. There are the chapels in which they said their prayers; the colonnades, where the overseers sat; the tombs which contained the remains of those most distinguished among them. Of all the great and heavy quarryings in our own country, there is nothing that bears any comparison to the tremendous operations at Silsilis. Unfinished statues, niches in the walls, elaborate mouldings in stone, a beautiful door, the marks of the chisels, the stone on which they sharpened and tried the temper of their chisels, and colored figures, keep the traveller in a state of feverish excitement; because they surpass the utmost skill of modern times, even as displayed in tunnelling mountains for railroads. It must be more than

three thousand years since any labor has been performed there; yet the chisel-marks are, apparently, fresh, — there is no moss-grown air of antiquity about them. This freshness is such as to induce the feeling that the operatives have merely left for dinner. It should be recollected that all these extraordinary displays of energy and skill in quarrying stone, equal to the finest specimens of this age, were produced with copper tools, — iron and steel being quite unknown. The tempering of that metal is a lost art.

We here found one of the apples of Sodom, which is a gigantic milkweed. The pod, containing the seed and silk, was shaped like a peach, being two inches in diameter. I succeeded in bringing the seeds to New England.

Immediately after dining, we came to Edfou, — the ancient Apollinopolis, — where there is another immense temple, surrounded by a heavy hewn-stone wall, beautiful and massive. No such workmanship is anywhere else displayed, where I have ranged abroad, on four continents. The towers of the gateway quite overwhelmed me with their majestic proportions, — nearly, if not quite, a hundred feet in height. Without a measuring-line, or measure of any kind, we could only judge of the relative heights, and other dimensions, of these great ruins. Not wishing to be minute in detail, — as it was not my intention to write for the guidance of architects, — it did not seem important to attend to these particulars. Had we attempted to give the exact size and height of all we saw, a single temple would have required half the season for its accomplishment; and, at the end of three years, the business would have scarcely commenced.

All the sculpturings on the walls and massive pillars — the little of them not concealed by filth and sand — are exquisite and marvellous, as everything is in the valley of the Nile that has survived the wreck of ages to these latter days. This was

a priestly citadel, to my apprehension, in which the cunning occupants were safe from attacks without, of political enemies; while the paintings, statues, figures, and a gorgeous worship of the gods of the people, quite overawed, and made manageable, the masses of superstitious beings dwelling around its sacred precincts. The noble court, and all covered apartments, — such as the world is challenged to produce elsewhere, — might all be cleared out. Sand has accumulated outside, so as quite to hide its western side; and a mound has gradually accumulated at the top of that, so that the remnants of mud houses, pottery and bricks, have contributed to raise it full one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the ground-plot of the temple, at the period of its erection. Arabs have actually set their hovels on the roof of this magnificent ruin; and, in fact, families are nestling, like rooks, all over it, — pouring out their daily accumulations of filth, to augment and cement the masses already there.

Some Bedouin Arabs were at Edfou, from the interior of the Libyan Desert, — a wild, sinewy race of restless men. A poor, sick Arab accosted me, on the wall, for assistance, who appeared to be suffering dreadfully from a stone in the bladder. It was impossible to give him even temporary relief. I saw a man making a spike, in front of the temple, in a tiny charcoal fire, blown by an instrument composed of two skins tied to an iron pipe. A woman raised first one and then the other, alternately, and pressed them down to the ground to squeeze the wind out. This is a specimen of the useful arts at Edfou, the beautiful.

Saltpetre works, extensive as they are at Dendera, have been abandoned at Edfou. All the old mounds yield that salt in abundance; and if the pasha would lease or sell the right to manufacture it to a company with a small capital, a handsome profit might be realized.

Dec. 10th. Tuesday. — Immediately on arriving at Esné, we passed through the bazaar, at the top of a mound, that conceals a beautiful temple, into which a descent is made by rude stairs. I was lost in admiration and renewed astonishment at the achievements of these old temple-builders. A quarter of a mile from the town is a modern two-story house, of wood and stone, having blinds over the harem windows. It is called a palace; and it stands in the midst of a garden, which we paid a fee for entering. This was like all modern Egyptian gardens, stiff and formal, — containing no great variety of flowers, a few orange-trees and tamarasks, with rivulets of water running to the roots of all the plants, drawn up at a sakkia, by oxen, near the river. There were some figs, also, nearly ripe, which are not common so far up the Nile. Weaving was going on in the narrow streets. We noticed a young fellow industriously weaving, in front of a mud hovel, a red border into the fringe of a shawl. Mohammed Ali's cotton-factory is no longer in operation at Esné. Some of the machinery was lying on the ground, perishing as fast as rust can destroy it.

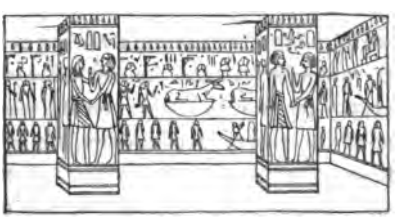
On the return to the boat, a house was passed where a number of women were howling with a vehemence that led to the conclusion that a death might have just occurred. They were seated on the floor, and making a shocking outcry. There were several mummy-cases, with mummies in them, lying by the side of the passage into the subterranean temple; but the police, or whoever they were, accompanying us, were shocked at the idea of raising the lid of one of them, for a look at the contents. One of them sputtered and gesticulated with sufficient violence to induce us to desist.

About six miles from Esné, we passed a large party of desert Bedouins. Their camels were unladen, asses at liberty, and immense masses of packages were heaped up near the

river. Women, children and slaves, were roaming about, in the enjoyment of the best and richest of all sights to them, — the water, in inexhaustible quantity. Mat-bags, standing on end upon the sand, probably contained their provisions and domestic effects.

Dec. 11. *Wednesday.* — At Thebes. The last was a tempestuous night, of high, dry wind. I was quite nauseated with the surging of the boat, and had some fear it might capsize. Early this morning, we crossed the river from Luxor to the west side, to explore Thebes, — the wonder of ages, and admiration of travellers, from the first knowledge we have of the existence of its mighty edifices. Having examined the temples nearest to the landing, we wound along between the bold mountains, over a wide road, that had been excavated thousands of years, by which the bodies of regal tenants of the costly tombs beyond had been conveyed. I can conceive of the imposing appearance of the wailing multitudes that thronged this winding way of the dead, when the priesthood, in the meridian of its political influence, as the machine of state, in gorgeous apparel, overawed the assembled thousands. A multitude crowned the hill-tops to witness the grand spectacle of conveying the beloved of the gods to one of the dark, deep receptacles cut into the solid rock, beneath the mountains. Thebes, the magnificent, — filled with architectural glories, — was, in part, defended by the mountains from the advancing sands of the Libyan Desert, which, like the cohorts of a Roman army, could only be restrained by barriers interposed by nature, but never by the resistance of opposing man. It was full four miles to the mouths of the tombs, which, for convenience, are numbered. Nos. 14, 2, 10, 35, and some others not recollected, were thoroughly examined; and my astonishment was increased by what I saw, quite beyond all previous conceptions of the

indefatigable efforts of those wonderful people, the ancient Egyptians. We came square up to the foot of a spur of a mountain, at the end of a path that branched off from the common highway. By digging down five, six, and, perhaps, ten feet, through sand, flint pebbles and shingle, that appeared to have sifted down the side of the mountain from above, there was a regular square doorway, the lintels being well wrought. We then descended an inclined plane, till the first apartment, as a general example, was fifty feet below the road-level above the entrance. On each side, descending the stairs, were little rooms, hewn into the rock, in which the walls of some—and, in fact, all, to some extent—were covered with painted illustrations of the every-day occupations of the inhabitants of the period when they were executed. The colors of red, green, blue, yellow, &c., were vivid, and not faintly obscure, leaving it for the imagination to complete the outline, or fill up the details.



INTERIOR OF PICTURED TOMB.

We kept descending, on an easy inclination, from one large, beautifully cut, carved and finished room to another,—three hundred and twenty feet, in one of them, in a horizontal line. They are cut into a porous limestone, in which flint pebbles are strewn in profusion, of sizes from a pea to irregular nodules of a foot long and six inches in thickness. It must have been excessively difficult, therefore, to cut through them. Some of the walls were polished to the smoothness of glass by being

covered with a fine cement, not very dissimilar to enamel, on the surface of which are raised figures, numerous, beyond all attempts at computation. Their finish is exquisite, complicated, and difficult to copy, or even imitate. All the way to these royal tombs there are mummy-pits, of which the Arabs find the mouth by digging through debris. The bodies of the old masons and artists who accomplished the beautiful, surprising, and enduring works in the neighborhood, are dragged out by hundreds, and broken up, with the hope of finding something valuable on their persons.

These elaborate subterranean structures are without parallel in the world. The long reign of a king scarcely gave sufficient time to complete a place for his interment. There was an evident design of concealment, when once finished, by crumbling down the sides of the mountains, so as to effectually hide the opening; and this too rendered it extremely difficult to penetrate the fallen mass, were the locality suspected or known.

It appears to have been the leading ambition of life, from the monarch on the throne to the slave chained to the oar, in Ancient Egypt, to prepare for a comfortable resting-place in death. Nothing short of the resources of an absolute king, in such a country, could have commanded the means necessary to carry on to completion several of the Theban tombs now open for inspection. Probably the various mechanics and artists employed in them devoted their entire existence to the particular sepulchre on which their skill was displayed. They must invariably have conducted all their labors by lamp-light, since there could have been no possible way for the sun's rays to penetrate more than a short distance into the tomb. No such things as perpendicular shafts from above, for the introduction of light and air, were adopted. In fact, the depth — hundreds of feet, from the surface to the excavation beneath — forbids the idea of

those modern inventions. The air was perfectly good in every one we visited, the temperature being but a trifle higher than the ordinary degree of heat above ground.

It is a source of wonder with me what became of the prodigious amount of material that must have been brought out in baskets, probably by slaves and state prisoners, as fast as the stone-cutters liberated it. The quantity taken from the seventeen gigantic tombs of the first class would have been quite sufficient to have made a tolerable-sized artificial mountain.

Beyond all doubt, there are very many more of these costly abodes of the dead, which may elude discovery even hundreds of years to come, rich in resources illustrative of the condition of the arts and of society at periods even more remote than the learned have contemplated. Even if coeval, or nearly so, with those that have been laid open to inspection, if found in good condition, they may prove of infinite value in supplying lost links in the long line of Egyptian history.

Actuated by a well-grounded belief that there were more tombs than had been discovered, Belzoni commenced a series of energetic researches; and, by vigorously attacking the mountain sides in the gloomy gorges, where several were detected, he succeeded in finding one that quite threw into the shade the labors of his predecessors. Travellers — for the sake of order, and for facilitating the progress of strangers who go up to the valley of the tombs — have numbered them over the door. No. 17 is called Belzoni's, by common consent, in memory of the indefatigable discoverer. In all respects, the character of this particular tomb is so remarkable, that it would be inexcusable not to give some particulars of the interior arrangement. Others have their attraction, also; and, when fully described, are no less objects of profound meditation.

In Belzoni's tomb there is a flight of steps descending

twenty-four feet, on a horizontal line of twenty-nine feet. Next, there is a passage, eighteen and a half feet by nine. Going through a door, there is another stair-case, descending twenty-five feet. Then we came to two doors, and another passage twenty-nine feet in length, by which a chamber was entered, fourteen feet by twelve, where was a deep pit, now filled. To any person less ardent and determined than the intrepid Belzoni, this point would have been considered, to all intents and purposes, the terminus of the tomb. The pit was intended for a deception by the architect, and was admirably calculated to put an end to all further research beyond. A wall of huge hewn stones gave a fine finish, and covered up, as might generally have been supposed, the rough cuttings of the stone. However, by striking it, evidence was obtained of space beyond. He soon forced an opening, and thus gained access to apartments which had been hermetically sealed from the action of the elements, and from human eyes, all of three thousand two hundred and ten years. It was the burial-place of Osirei, who was made King of Egypt 1385 years before Christ. He was the father of Rameses II., who ascended the throne of his father 1355 years before our epoch.

Beyond the wall is a grand hall, twenty-six feet square, the roof being sustained by four pillars, covered, as are the walls of the apartment, with sculptured figures. A second hall follows, of nearly the same size, the roof supported by two columns, not finished. Another stair-case descends from the first hall. Two more passages followed, and then we entered a room seventeen by fourteen feet, from which there was an entrance, through a door, into another splendid apartment, twenty-seven feet square, the weight above sustained by six pillars, — the original rock, — left standing by cutting away about them. Then there was still another chamber, vaulted, nineteen feet by thirty, in

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the centre of which was, when first opened, an alabaster sarcophagus. A stairway, each side, goes down still further into the hard rock, one hundred and fifty feet. Since the eventful day of the discovery, some of the rooms have suffered prodigiously by the depredations of visiters; some places have fallen in, and an air of ruinous progress is noticeable. The royal body was unquestionably stolen by the priests, immediately after its interment, for the treasures deposited with it. Several of the tombs have in them enormous granite coffins; the very lid of one we examined would require the united strength of fifty men, lifting by their fingers, to replace it over the sarcophagus, from whence it was no doubt thrown for the sake of pillaging within.

Were an attempt made to describe the reliefs, endless in number and design, in this or other tombs of the old despots who were buried in them, it would swell my journal to unwieldy dimensions. The interior finish is by far the most extraordinary part of them. A very common stone-cutter might have picked his course into the bowels of the mountains; but it required an experienced artist to delineate the multitudinous groups of figures raised above the common plane of the ceiling, and to design and execute the painted scenes.

It is a sickening sight to see the ground strewn with skulls, trunks, thigh-bones, hands, feet, ribs, jaws and teeth, which the hyenas drag and gnaw, and then abandon, as the reckless Arabs do, when they can extract nothing from them that will gratify cupidity on the one hand, or a ravenous animal appetite on the other. The collections, or rather drifts, of mummy-cloth, torn from the bodies, and thrown about by the winds, is also a sight sickening and shocking, when taken in connection with the purposes to which it was appropriated, and the circumstances which have once more exposed it to the glare of

human eyes. If any merchant chose to offer a mere trifle for the cotton cloth that might be picked up at Sakkara and Thebes, — and which will increase rather than diminish, — the speculation would be a productive one, for paper-rags. I inspected the texture of this cloth, — the thread, the twist of it, and the general character of the web, for it is of all degrees of fineness, — and I am constrained to declare that it equals, in all respects, the cottons from the best English and American mills. I did not detect linen in a single instance. The quantity presupposes an active cotton-manufacturing population; for the millions of yards still under ground, in a perfect condition, must far exceed the amount exposed. For more than one, and, it may be, two thousand years, these sacrilegious depredations of the wild men of the deserts have been going on. They plunder the graves for the treasures they may find. Ancient jewelry is thus recovered, and to a remunerating amount, or the business would not have been continued through forty generations. The signet-ring of Cheops, the builder of the great pyramid of Geezeh, was singularly obtained by these grave-thieves. Feet, hands, and other parts of bodies, were offered for sale by a few straggling Arabs, who followed in our wake.

Should I attempt a description of the multitudinous and elaborate remains of the most superb edifices that were ever probably made of stone, no adequate idea would be conveyed; and I feel it proper to say, once for all, that whatever there is on the surface remaining of the works at Thebes, however thoroughly they may be examined, cannot be delineated. Where these blocks came from, how they were managed at all, and who could have conceived the idea of grappling with such gigantic masses, is quite beyond comprehension. One single statue, of red granite, overturned, and broken in several pieces, must

have been transported one hundred and twenty-four miles, either before or after being finished. In its perfect condition, it has been computed to have weighed over eight hundred tons. Its body was of the diameter of a tolerable-sized house. A bit of it was broken off, and brought away. We also obtained a piece of the vocal statue, from the middle of the instep of the left foot. It is covered by faint Greek inscriptions, and fractured quite through. After wandering over and among the ruins, and wondering, and scarcely crediting the revelations made to our eyes, we retraced our steps to the boat. Throughout, the mountains, in the region of the tombs, are filled with sea-shells, of various sizes and forms. They are as solid as stone; and show that this was once the bottom of the ocean, and that these animals lived in the water that covered the land. The petrifactions of shells are sufficiently remarkable to give employment to geologists for some time, before they can define the period when Thebes was elevated from the sea. We noticed, in some of the great blocks of stone, in the pyramids of Geezeh, ammonites of good size. The shells, therefore, are venerable, for they were formed before the stone in which they are imbedded.

Among the lounging, straggling, idle Arabs who followed us wherever we happened to turn, importuning us to buy their antiques, — chiefly sacred beetles, and small bronze figures, — was a man who evidently felt himself a little superior to those about him, for he spoke of his planted ground, and his general prosperity, as he had four wives, ten boys, and five horses. Our guide, a tall, spare Arab, of about fifty, was induced to speak of his condition, also, on perceiving that an interest was taken in the observations of his neighbor. He had only two wives, and five children; one of the women was moosh-tibe, — that is, bad. On returning to the boat, a com-

pany of dancing-girls, with cymbals, bells in their girdles, and other apparatus belonging to their profession, were paraded on the wet sand, accompanied by a tambourine-player, and a performer on the two-stringed fiddle. They gesticulated to the worth of a few paras, and then retired. The cheapest way of getting rid of unpleasant company, at all times, was to pay them for going away.

Some of the first apartments of tombs nearest to the ruins are occupied as dwellings by the present Thebans. In one — a room nearly, if not quite, a hundred feet in length — was the home of a flock of sheep. A woman, who lived in the mouth of another sepulchre, on which were the remains of ancient paintings, became very importunate for backshiesh. Pay these people their price for any service or privilege, and, unless they have backshiesh over and above, they are quite as dissatisfied as they apparently would be had they nothing at all.

Dec. 12th. Thursday. — Visited the tombs of Thebes, as numbered in the work of Sir Gardiner Wilkinson, 17, 9, 11, 14, 15, 6; and I am at a loss for language to indicate my gratification. If the ruins before us excited perpetual exclamations of wonder and surprise, the tombs explored made us dumb for want of new expressions. Being without parallel in the whole world, it is not probable they will ever be either imitated or excelled in any subsequent age. A succession of surprises met us at every step, in Egypt. A second time we went for an examination of the temples. It is an event in a man's life to have seen them at all; therefore we concluded to acquire a correct idea of the original plan, with an exact knowledge of the present condition of the whole. An English gentleman, by the name of Smith, joined our party on the way, and our researches were conducted jointly. We went together to the celebrated tomb discovered by Belzoni. On our slow march,

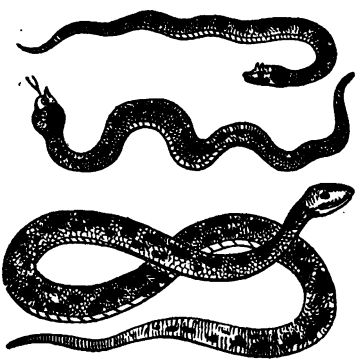
we saw a jackal, looking down from a high elevation to the necropolis below, as though he would like a bone to pick of one of the company. Having completed the survey, the party became separated; so that I found myself alone with the donkey-driver. Two small Arab boys followed, on foot, all day, with a little jar of water, — offering it whenever we came to a halt. I gave them hard biscuit and dates, occasionally, and next pursued the way to the river. Two sailors were sporting with a small boat, who were pressed to land me across the Nile, opposite the vast accumulation of Cyclopean ruins at Karnak, a mile and a half below Luxor. I scrambled over fields, leaped dykes, and skulked out of sight of Arabs at work, — passing several women tending goats, — and ultimately came suddenly upon the mightiest of all ruins yet contemplated. It was perfectly overwhelming to look upon such mountains of hewn stone, lofty gateways, splendid columns, — standing with the irregularity, apparently, of forest trees. Some obelisks are still standing, towering towards the skies, solitary and alone, yet bearing on their polished sides, in bold characters, the whole story, perhaps, of Karnak, which no one can satisfactorily read or comprehend. Many are broken. They throw into the shade all other remains in Egypt; and Karnak may justly be called the tomb of architecture.

It was thought, on the whole, a hazardous feat to visit Karnak alone, as I did, — wandering from one extremity of the fallen majesty of sculptured stone to another; and, finally, trudging up to Luxor without a guide, save the remnant of two rows of sphinxes, that once lined the whole way. They are nearly all destroyed. Some have no heads, others no bodies; and a few more years will utterly obliterate the last vestiges of the most imposing and lofty designs ever executed to give effect, splendor and majesty, to a place of worship. St. Peter's,

at Rome, is a toy, a mere tinsel plaything, compared to the overwhelming grandeur of forsaken Karnak.

When I got to the boat, a large, swarthy Arab, in a big turban, was sitting, with a small boy, by the side of a conical basket. He rose, offered me his hand, and said that he had heard I was a hakem from the New World. He further observed that he was a doctor, also. He was a native snake-charmer, one of the Psilli, — a race of ancient renown. Running his hand into the basket, he drew out an adder, a yard in length, opened his own mouth, and tucked the head of the resisting reptile in, coil after coil, till there was no more room; when, by the tail, he slowly drew it out. The eyes of the snake sparkled, and his forked tongue played like flashes of light, when the operator laid it down on deck. Directly the serpent raised its head an inch or two, when the Arab shook his finger, muttered an incantation, and down went the snake, as though dead. He then tied it in knots, twined it round his own neck, and performed other feats, that made me keep a bright look-out lest I should get bitten in some careless moment. He assured me he could call any serpent from the crevices in the rocks, or wherever they might be, and handle them with impunity. They would be quite as obedient, he declared, at first sight, as after being in his possession. He was anxious for an engagement to go into the barrans, among the boulders, back of the town, to call the snakes out, the next day. The boy who was with him handled all those in the basket with perfect freedom. Soon after, my friends — Messrs. Holland and Warren — came up, and five small, whip-lash-looking snakes, in ringed folds, were drawn forth. Being straightened, by strokes of the hand, till they were parallel, the Arab suddenly put the hank of vital cords round the neck of Mr. Holland. There they hung, while their tongues and tails

indicated an activity that shocked me. I told him we were not so accomplished in America as the hakems were in Egypt, if this was to be considered an accomplishment; nor had the profession been driven to the necessity of eating snakes, however much in danger they might be of eating each other, at the rate they were multiplying when I left home.



Serpents not only quarter themselves in gardens, and about the mounds of rubbish in the villages and towns of Egypt, but actually ensconce themselves in dwelling-houses, from whence it is extremely difficult to dislodge them, without the assistance of the Psilli, or snake-charmers. A physician of Cairo told me that two tolerably large serpents were in his garden; but they eluded all his attempts to kill them, and he supposed it would be necessary to send for one of the regular craft to entrap them. A few weeks before this was related, he further observed that a snake-charmer was accidentally bitten by a small, venomous snake that he exhibited; and, although the wounded man applied to him immediately, the action of the poison could not be arrested, and the poor fellow died in agony. He supposed

there must have been some remissness on the part of the exhibiter, for the occurrence was a rare one.

Dec. 13th. Friday. — In good season, this morning, I again visited Karnak, in company with Messrs. Holland and Warren. Two impudent Arabs requested to be taken into service for the day, as guides; but my experience yesterday showed it was quite unnecessary. They insisted upon going, which we firmly forbade. One of them, with an expectation of alarming us, assumed a dictatorial tone, and ordered us to return forthwith to the boat, — declaring he would complain to the governor, who would send twenty men to arrest us for disobedience to his commands. He could not have been familiar with Yankee character; for himself, the whole population of Luxor, and the pasha into the bargain, were defied, and invited to come on, — the sooner the better. The rascals sneaked away, and no further molestation was offered. We leisurely surveyed the confused ruins, — far more extensive and important than any others in the world, in our humble estimation. There is stone enough quarried, of all sizes, shapes and dimensions, to build a great city; and yet it all belonged to a series of grand and lofty edifices, which, collectively, were a single temple. I have been as much lost in astonishment, in contemplating the character of the old Egyptian mind, as in these enduring monuments of their taste and mechanical skill. To me, the genius of the first architects who have ever lived, with whose works and designs we are acquainted, fall infinitely below the crumbling memorials at Edfou, Thebes, Luxor, and Karnak. I have been upon the Acropolis of Athens, and meditated on the classical ruins of the Parthenon, the Erecthæum, the temple of Theseus, and the noble and solemn grandeur of all that has withstood the combined assaults of time, the elements, and man in his fury, — and they are all insignificant, simple and trifling,

compared to the conception and completion of the massive, extensive, noble, beautiful and dignified combination of walls, columns, sculptures, symbols, and architectural glories, on the wretched, forsaken plain of Karnak. Even the Temple of Jupiter Olympus — a fit habitation for the presiding god of the Greeks — was but a dog-kennel, in the meridian of original splendor, in comparison with the loftier, grander parliament-house of the gods of Egypt. And yet Karnak, Thebes, Luxor, Memphis, Abydos, and Heliopolis, were all neglected and decaying before Greece or Rome had been moulded into nations. Surely the transcendant energy, skill, civilization and intellectuality, of the early Egyptians, is neither understood nor appreciated.

While sauntering round the overturned walls, broken pillars, and upturned obelisks, two gray foxes were leaping over the apartments where none but the feet of kings and royal priests were permitted to tread, before all the beauty, sanctity and majesty of Karnak, became the hiding-place for reptiles, and man refused to remain where the gods were once supposed to have a local habitation. We followed them till they skulked away between some fallen capitals, or columns, — it is not essential to remember which, since the degradation is sufficiently obvious, without particularizing the dens of reptiles and rapacious animals.

I picked up the skin of a serpent five feet long, in what is designated the lying-in room of a royal temple, near the tombs, in Thebes. We looked about warily, for fear of stepping on the venomous creature that had shed it, now the tenant of the birth-room, perhaps, of some of the Pharaohs!

An English gentleman, in goggles, was met to-day, whom I saw at Karnak yesterday, with whom we held pleasant conversation.

Returning to Luxor in the faintly-defined avenue that was doubtless once guarded by sphinxes all the way, we came to an extensive saltpetre manufactory. Vats are dug, and ceiled with plaster, to make them tight, — covering an acre and a half. The light, rich, black mould, gathered within and about the ruins of Karnak, shovelled up with the bare hands, and not with shovels, — tools not being procurable, — is carried, in baskets, on the backs of donkeys, to the works. There it is leached, and the strong liquor evaporated in the broad, shallow vats, till the salt is crystallized and dry. Were pains taken to excavate systematically, simply for supplying the manufacturing establishment, hidden treasures of art would, unquestionably, be constantly recovered. A small temple, or, at least, the appendage of one, was being revealed while I was looking on.

Mr. Stephenson, the engineer of the tubular bridge over the Menai Straits, passed by, up the river, yesterday; but we missed him. He must have gained some new ideas, in regard to the mechanical-attainments of the ancients, that will contrast favorably with any of his own designs.

Hassan came for money; he has a second wife, with a daughter, here, back of Luxor. Had we kept on to Dongola, he would, probably, have found a series of them, at convenient distances, all the way. With the cash, we sent his second spouse a little fruit, and other delicacies. We had advanced money for his wife number one at Alexandria, before sailing. With all our curiosity and tact, we did not get a sight of madam or the daughter. Hassan had the blood of a true Mussulman in his veins; consequently, we might have known they were not to be seen.

Dec. 14th. — Last night was extremely cold; I would have been thankful for one of my mother's comforters. Drifted down stream famously, since yesterday, and, at noon, were

again at Keneh. Dendera — which afforded us so much gratification on the upward voyage — was in sight. Keneh is distinguished for the manufacture of pottery. The east side of the river was lined with rafts of water-jars, just ready to float off for Cairo to a market. Owing to the constant endeavor, on the part of the men, to counteract the leakage of the unglazed pots, sailing on these rafts is very much like working a passage on a canal by leading the horse. Even when lying up against a mud-bank, there is no rest either for pots or crew; for the leaking is all the while going on.

In making Nile voyages, it is common to fall in with persons bound to the same localities which you may propose visiting, and who would like to become companions for the day, or two days, according to the character of the explorations. There is economy in this, in regard to the expense of guides; and several donkeys may be hired to better advantage than one. There is presumed to be also more security by increasing the numbers of a party. But one of the serious drawbacks upon the pleasure of these ruin-hunting excursions, if not upon the profits of travelling, especially with limited means, is to have a person with you who is never ready to begin, or willing to stop when he has commenced, an exploration. Some are never satisfied with contemplating scenery in which another finds less enjoyment. I have been with a person who cared nothing about pictures, of the highest style of art; while another would sit and contemplate the same canvas by hours together, provided it had been spoken of favorably by a distinguished somebody, who influenced the public sentiment. In short, I have suffered excessively by being associated with those of a diametrically opposite taste, or no taste at all; and, while travelling in Egypt, particularly, each and all are cautioned against this vexation, of being obliged to wait too long, or hurry away too

quickly, on account of those in whom you have no special interest. Never go into Thebes or Karnak, the tombs or catacombs, subject to the whims and caprices of a disagreeable wayside acquaintance.

Ali, our boy, was asked to-day what would be his course, if he could do precisely as he desired. He answered, frankly, that, if he could procure four purses,—equivalent to one hundred dollars,—he would buy a wife with one, make a present to the bint's father, and with the second make a feast, buy clothes for his wife; and, when he grew into a man, "den I have more wife." He was fourteen years of age! As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined. This is a national characteristic.

Dec. 15*th.* *Sunday.*—Very cold last night; but, when the sun came out, it was first warm, and then sultry. This is the holy Sabbath, but no day of rest in Egypt. Not being a Christian country, there is no reason for wondering why there are no sacred observances. There is no day of holy rest or contemplation, even on Friday, to the people. Those holding official stations under the pasha are quite willing to close their bureaus on Friday, because they are drawing pay; but those who subsist by their labor can never relax. On Fridays, in cities, a few pious Mussulmans, whose circumstances permit, throng the mosques; but no secular business—in the bazaars, the shops of mechanics, in the streets, on the farms, or river-craft—suspended, as far as we could discover, a single moment. Passed Abydos, and many small villages. Saw several hundred monstrous white pelicans, just below, on a mud-bar. They walked with a stately gait, without being alarmed at the sight of animals or men on shore, but kept a watchful eye on us.

Dec. 15*th.* *Monday.*—To obtain domestic supplies was an apology for going into Ekhmin, in connection with a desire to

examine the dust of the extinct city of Panopolis, on a portion of the site of which is the modern mean mud-town. Full thirty feet below the surface of the vast accumulated mounds of stone, brick, earthen ware, bones and filth, we saw the very last remnant of a splendid temple, bearing a Greek inscription on the corner. By digging, the marble stone was exposed; but the villagers were actually knocking that curious and extremely valuable antique to pieces, and burning it, piecemeal, into lime! The kiln was contiguous, the fire being wholly maintained by grass. A few rods further, there was a deep hollow, in which were large blocks of hewn stone, formerly constituting the walls of a vastly spacious edifice. The land level is, upon an average, twenty feet, throughout Ekhmin, above the original level. This shows that ages must have been required to accumulate those extraordinary tumuli. In the bazaars, many well-dressed Arabs were smoking, as everywhere else, and playing a singular game of chance, by sliding shells into depressions in a piece of plank, half the depth of a tea-cup. Some of the smokers were jet-black negroes; but they sipped coffee, smoked, played and chatted with the whites, as companions and intimate friends. A prejudice has not been manifested against color, in the course of my observations here, excepting among the wild geese. We often saw the black ones by themselves, and never, in a single instance, associated with those of white plumage. It was difficult to determine which was the aristocratic party.

Blind persons were numerous, led about by their children, or feeling their way alone. Very many were noticed who were suffering from acute inflammation of one eye. Nobody pretended to be so extravagant as to sport two optics. Mechanics of every description, even to blacksmiths, were sitting flat on the ground, at their vocations. In passing out of the town, we

went through a very extensive cemetery. There was a large number of whitewashed sheik-tombs, some having a small niche or recess in front, into which a devout Mussulman could squeeze, and conduct his devotional exercises. There is not a grave-yard in the United States, I apprehend, in which so many acres of ground have been filled with the bodies of human beings. The fields were extremely verdant, and the weather delightful.

The antiquities of Ekhmin — or, as some both write and pronounce it, *Akhmim* — would give full employment to an ardent antiquarian several months; and then he would be obliged to retire with a very imperfect knowledge of what has been there in the form of cities and temples. The present town is on the site of Chemmis, once one of the great cities of the Thebiad. Vestiges of enormously large buildings are still recognized, widely extended over the region.

Strabo speaks of the antiquity of this place. The inhabitants in the age of Herodotus, when it was called Panopolis, showed that historian certain genealogies of Perseus, Lynceus and Danaus, who were natives of the city, and afterwards emigrated to Greece. While we were luxuriating in the bland sunshine, day after day, the ground in Europe and the United States must have been frozen, and covered with ice and snow.

Dec. 17*th*. *Wednesday.* — The difficulty with the reis progresses; he is determined not to row. Although the wind blew last night, and even through the day, the sun poured his dazzling splendors on Egypt. Slowly drifting; now two hundred and seventy miles from Cairo, — consequently becoming impatient, since the crew render but little assistance.

Dec. 18*th*. *Thursday.* — A day unproductive in incidents. Mr. Holland went on shore at Assioot. Cold nights and hot days. The reis provoked us outrageously, so that Mr. War-

ren wishes him bastinadoed. Just nine miles from Manfaloot, approaching the celebrated tombs of Beni Hassan.

Dec. 19th. Friday. — Both sleepy and provoked. The conduct of the reis — who stands in no fear of us — is insufferable. He is practising an old Nile game, — procrastination, — and thus expects to eke out the time, upon the principle that time is money; especially as he expects to sponge it out of us. It is our intention to enter a complaint against him at the first pashalic we arrive at.

Towards nightfall, arrived at a dusty mud-village, and walked over the melancholy ruins of ruins where once stood the proud imperial city of Artinoë, a Roman creation, on the still more ancient dust of generations to which neither records nor memory reach. Several massive, finely-proportioned red granite columns are standing, like solitary trees in an open field, buried half their length. Scattered brick, strong arches, heavy and well-hammered stone, independent of columns, prostrate, marred and broken, indicated the strong old Roman masonry, which is wholly distinct, and never to be mistaken for Egyptian workmanship. A perfect troop of bare-footed, half-nude Arab girls scampered and re-collected round us, according to our indications of wrath or good-nature at their importunities. They had old Roman coins, many of Greek origin, with a few of an older date; but most of them were imperfect. Anything passes for an antiquity on the Nile. The poor power of discrimination between what is and what is not valuable has led these hawkers and pedlers to annoy everybody seen in a Frank costume, as they seem to suppose nothing comes amiss to them which is purchased among the ruins. I have had an Arab present an old copper watch-seal, and another a brass button. They were, no doubt, thought by the poor creatures of rare value, because they were unlike the common run

of articles found by them. Naked children, idle men, and sauntering women, surrounded us, and were clamorous for backshiesh.

By four o'clock in the afternoon we arrived opposite the renowned grottos of Beni Hassan, — a series of tombs excavated in the limestone, at an elevation of two hundred feet above the river, lying easterly, the distance of a mile and a half from where the small boat landed us. These tombs belong to a very remote antiquity, and have always been distinguished for the beauty of their proportions and finish. The whole ledge or mountain is a mass of pebbles and marine shells, singularly commingled. It is clear, therefore, that the entire mass, for hundreds of miles, stretching out under the sand of the desert, — perhaps to the Red Sea, — from this point, was once the bed of a quiet ocean. The shell-fish were the natural product, and must have been perpetuated for cycles beyond human computation, to have created a mountain of their shells. One generation after another settled into the plastic, quiescent bed, and thus strata were formed of alternate beds of lime and skeletons. By and by, an upheaval force from below raised the whole above the circumambient waters; and there it remains, a monument to record the genealogical revolutions that have been effected in this part of Africa. Then, again, unnumbered ages rolled on, and man finally wandered from the primitive home of his ancestors, and settled in Egypt. Another series of undefined lustrums moved on, and human beings were multiplied, till the valley of the Nile was alive with the hum of human beings and industry. When the dead outnumbered the living, and the gleamings of a future state were obscurely perceived by the sages, a doctrine of the immortality of the soul was predicated, perhaps, on the incorruptibility and preservation of the body. This led to mechanical devices for securing the

perishable fabric of mortality; and mummy-pits, royal sepulchres and grottoes, like these of Beni Hassan, were constructed, excelling in workmanship anything of the kind in other parts of the world; and far exceeding, as we are accustomed to estimate the price of labor, the aggregate cost of all other kinds and forms of resting-places for the dead, in any age or country. Some, if not all these tombs, were between two and three thousand years old at the commencement of the Christian era; they may safely be contemplated, therefore, as the oldest monuments of the kind on the globe. They were antiques before the foundations of Thebes were laid; and they bid fair to resist the pulverizing activity of time, and the depredations of barbarians, for ten centuries to come.

Many of the tombs are pleasant stone rooms, — without windows, of course, — with an arched or flat ceiling over head, according to the taste of the proprietor. Some had two rooms, side by side, and others one apartment beyond the other. To give them a finish and fine effect, there are some with square pillars, reaching from the floor to the roof, while in others they are round and fluted. One of the grottos had four fluted columns, acknowledged to be the oldest known to architects in the world. Dr. Lepsius has actually cut away one of them, by taking six feet in length off to Berlin, for his master's museum. A few feet of the remnant hangs down from the ceiling, like the stump of a stalactite, while the lower end, not far from two feet, still rests on the floor. They were not inserted columns, but parts of the original rock, left standing by excavating round them. All the grottos have elegantly-chiselled doorways, — the doors having been destroyed, nobody knows when. In one corner of each of the tombs is a square hole, cut into the rock, which goes down to an unknown depth, — perhaps from sixty to a hundred feet, — with singular bolt-holes,

for fastening down a heavy trap-door. This was the mummy-pit, filled and hermetically sealed, no doubt; but rifled by vandal Persians, in some of their predatory inroads, for the gold and precious things that may have been upon them. In these tombs are immense series of drawings on the walls, in red, blue, green and black colors, in which are illustrated all the pursuits of the people at the period of their execution. We are possessed of no art that was not known to them, according to these paintings. Men and animals figure in all conceivable positions, life-like and spirited. We were very much surprised at several long rows of figures, representing gymnastic feats and exercises. In all the exhibitions witnessed, either in Europe or at home, of posture-masters, none of them approached these multitudinous twistifications of the human form; even the India-rubber man, who almost tied his own legs into a hard knot, never came up to the climax of contortions practised by those old Egyptian performers. They probably sat for the limner, and that explains the success of the artist. They are usually from a foot to eighteen inches tall. Most of the drawings and pictures, however, have been exposed to the action of the elements, through an open door; the rude touch of barbarians, who have made these tombs their dwellings; and, lastly, were subjected, just before our arrival, to worse than barbarian usage from Dr. Lepsius and others, who pressed damp paper over them, to take impressions. It now requires the assistance of a vigorous imagination to trace out all the domestic scenes that once must have been distinctly and beautifully portrayed.

The Speas Artemedas — technically known as the cave of Diana — is the richest of the group, in all respects, the overhead ceiling being thrown into the form of three arches; and it was in this that Dr. Lepsius committed the sacrilege of which all travellers bitterly complain. Hassan apologized for

the extra appearance of dilapidation at Thebes, when we were approaching it, — as the Englishman did for the weather, of which he was ashamed, because it was so bad, — by saying Dr. Lepsius had spoiled everything in his country. Myself and companions can bear testimony to the fact that, wherever recent injuries have been inflicted, or something is missing that used to be somewhere, the guides invariably charge it upon that jackal provider for the lion of Prussia. He would doubtless justify himself by saying he carried them off to save them. This is preserving in a reprehensible manner for those who traverse sea and land to see what he has either carried away or defaced. In one of the tombs above Thebes we noticed a cartouch, — that is, an oval, in relief, on the wall, artistically executed, containing hieroglyphics, — which had been cut round, with a view of chipping it out, whole, to be carried off; but, unluckily, one-half of it was scaled away, and, of course, the remainder was not wanted. Thus the important key to other, and, perhaps, curious historical researches, is spoiled beyond redemption; and the guides charged it to the same learned gleaner, Dr. Lepsius. There will be no excuse for him, if his coming investigations into the early condition of monumental Egypt fall below the expectations of scholars and archæologists, for he has taken possession of all that is worth having.

All the grottos of Beni Hassan face the west, overlooking an extensive region of fine meadow-land, up and down the Nile. When the sun sets in the cloudless sky of this hemisphere, its dazzling rays of glory penetrate the very recesses of these drawing-rooms of the ancient dead. On the opposite side of the river, in full view from Beni Hassan, further south, is the pulverized rubbish of a defunct town, which tradition designates as the residence of the Psilli, or snake-charming

necromancers, whom Pharaoh sent for to confront Moses, after he had performed those miracles recorded of him, because the hard-hearted, prevaricating old monarch refused to let the Israelites go.

Dec. 20th. Friday.—A day fruitful of incidents. The unendurable conduct of the reis induced us to call at Minieh, the residence of a pasha, or local governor, to ask redress of grievances. Abuzed had repeatedly violated the contract, by refusing to set the crew at work; and, consequently, twelve stout Arabs have done pretty much as they chose. He had been repeatedly threatened with a complaint, but seemed to defy us. One of the sailors expressed an utter contempt for all tribunals, and we were therefore driven to the necessity of heading off any incipient mutinous show of disregard for ourselves, or the terrors of the law. Stern necessity was pressing, to my mind; and we were determined to ascertain whether justice could be found in Egypt, where it was once the boast that the rulers were the servants of the gods of Truth and Justice. Hauling to, towards nine o'clock, the boat was made fast; and, prinking up for the august occasion, we marched up to the quarters of his excellency, Mohammed Bey, Pasha of Minieh and its dependencies,—a corpulent, well-developed, agreeable-looking Turk, who was seated on a rough sort of settee, covered with a colored sheep-skin, with the wool on, under the shade of a wide-spreading acacia-tree. He was smoking, of course; wore a red tarbousch, red shoes, a blue, close-fitting spencer, and monstrous trousers, of blue broadcloth. Various officers were sauntering about, within the great man's orbit;—some with horse-pistols stuck in their sashes, which were wound several times round their bodies; others with staffs, and some with courbashes. We told Hassan, on the way up to the court, to translate truly, word for word; intimating that he would for-

feit our confidence if he deviated a hair. His excellency received us politely, asked our business, and directed his myrmidons to bring the accused reis into his awful presence. Abuzed was horrified at his position. The case was stated, when the pasha said he should be flogged, if we demanded it. We prayed for mercy instantly, urging the pasha to make him promise amendment; for we were pained at the idea of inflicting corporal punishment on a captain, in the presence of his crew. The rascal promised, of course, and thus saved his bacon, through our intercessions. A charge was next preferred against Jaffier, the originator and ringleader of the increasing insubordination. Before half the story was related, or we had any conception of the progress of the trial, he was thrown upon his face into a clumsy wooden frame, that confined the body, with the feet elevated, and two of the police alternately struck with the courbash. While the blows were falling, and the culprit screaming Abbas Pasha! Abbas Pasha! the governor waved his hand, still whiffing at the pipe, and the crowd opened a passage-way for us to see the process. Shocking as it was, dreadful to be obliged to see or hear, his excellency puffed out a long blast of smoke, and observed to me, — I being the nearest to him, — "This is the way justice is administered in Egypt." It was all over in less time than it takes to write it. We were told it was a light punishment, and did not hurt him much. It was a comfort to have the intelligence, for I was suffering beyond description. We were not required to pay the court; but, on taking leave, the posse gathered round for backshiesh, particularly the courbash gentry. The law deals in blows altogether, and knows nothing of pecuniary mulcts, tardy police inquiries, or appeals to higher tribunals, in petty offences, or when a man's life is in danger.

A memorable example of the power, activity and terribleness,

of old Mohammed Ali's government, was demonstrated in the utter desolation of two large villages, at the foot of the hill, near Beni Hassan, containing houses enough to accommodate three thousand inhabitants, and yet without a solitary tenant. Travellers had been repeatedly robbed, and it was becoming extremely dangerous to visit the tombs. Word was passed on to the ears of the pasha of the outrages committed. It roused the sleeping lion, who exerted himself in vain to detect the culprits. Without doubt, the sheiks and principal persons of the region connived at the depredations, and shared the plunder. Every one even remotely implicated was put to death, and then every remaining person, young, old, great and small, was commanded forthwith to abandon the premises, and never return. It is safe enough now, for there is no living creature there, save the jackals that course over the hot sands of the desert, and quench their raging thirst in front of Beni Hassan.

When we got on board, there was a rebellious uproar, and Jaffier was loudest of them all. They were out of bread, and asked for money. We hesitated a long time, not believing that the reis was destitute of change. A threat to take Jaffier back to the pasha, and all the rest of them with him, if they did not instantly do their duty, brought about order; the painter was cast off, and away the canjia floated towards Cairo again.

Dec. 21st. Saturday.—This was the Jewish Sabbath, and the day on which the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth, which, as customary, will be celebrated there to-morrow. Yesterday was the Mohammedan Sabbath, no way regarded in the miserable villages we were frequently touching at; yet they pray devoutly five times a day, and wherever there is a mosque, a preference is given to it, for the devotions of the men. I once saw an Arab woman at prayer on the bank of the river,

— the only one I have ever seen personally engaged in devotional exercises. She had precious little to be thankful for, — being barefooted, with a single blue cotton garment, and surrounded by wretched beings, poor, bigoted, and exacting of females to a degree that degrades them to brutes, and subjects them to the perpetual caprice of men in organization but devils in character.

The boat has moved briskly since the majesty of the law was exhibited at Minieh yesterday. Blows, after all, have a quickening influence with Arabs, that words or backshiesh never accomplish. On a particular occasion, after Mohammed Alí had ordered the infliction of a bastinado a hundred-fold worse than death, some Europeans waited upon his highness, intimating that civilized powers would not permit such atrocities, so shocking to the moral sense of Christendom. He patiently listened to the discourse, and, without betraying the wrath he smothered at their interference with his administration, quietly remarked, "It is all very good talk, gentlemen; but I understand governing Arabs better than you do;" and there the interview closed.

Fell in company with several boats filled with hadji, or pilgrims, returning from Mecca. They came with a caravan to Keneh, and there hired boats. Some of them were Algerines, but a large proportion were Turks from Constantinople, who had not only been a very long while on the journey, but must, with the most frugal management, have spent a large amount of money. If anybody can subsist on nothing, they can; for they purchase nothing that can possibly be let alone. On one of the boats was a fair, pale, delicate white woman, of about thirty, who appeared in ill health; and, to give her the full benefit of the bland air, while our boats were hauled up near together, at a stopping-place, cushions

were piled up under an awning, where she sat, staring upon us in our queer costume, — white flapped hats, and whatever else about our rigging that was a novelty to her large, rolling optics. She was a Circassian, — faded and wilting. There was a hull of a boat repairing, just on the margin of the bank, behind which I walked, as though inspecting the planking, which threw her and her friends off guard; which means simply she let her veil fall, giving me an opportunity to criticize her features. If she ever had been a beauty, she was not one now. On returning from a walk to a mound, she was seen on shore; and a queer sight it was. She wore huge, ungraceful pantaloons, and yellow boots, while her person was enveloped in lots of shawls, swathed on between her hips and shoulders, giving a grotesqueness to her figure that was unique. Off she hobbled, and squatted in her old nest, with a barricaded face. All the men were armed with horse-pistols mounted with silver, and some of them wore swords. The wind blew so terrifically, for an hour or two, that we laid by opposite a field of halfar-grass. While waiting for its subsidence, a drove of Arab girls came to a watering-station, on the opposite side of the river, with their jars. They plunged in, and had a grand frolic, which lasted an hour or more. Just at dark, the boat began to go with the current. Two jackals trotted along, keeping pace with us, for a full mile, when the darkness prevented us from watching their motions any longer.

Dec. 22d. Sunday. — An excellent run all night. Passed Benisooef at four o'clock in the morning, and heard the muezzin calling to prayers from a minaret. The wind was thought to be fatigued with blowing, according to sailor theory; and, consequently, went into a state of repose quite too early in the day for anxious voyagers. Passed what the dragoman called the *lying* pyramid, — commonly known to travellers as the false

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pyramid,—at noon, fifty miles from the capital. Some children hailed us from the bank, very earnestly, when one of them said his mother had just got a new baby, and he wanted to get a name for it. All hands shouted, pretty much at a breath, "Call him Mohammed." Two-thirds of the male population seem to bear that name already; and the remainder are called Abdallah, Hassan, and Ali.

Cairo, Dec. 23d. Monday.—By urging, and the extra activity of the crew, we arrived here at two o'clock this morning, at Boulac. It was something of an undertaking to pick up our effects, after six weeks of house-keeping. Before ten o'clock, five donkeys and one camel were hired, including Hassan and little Ali's accommodation. Both wanted to ride up to town like gentlemen. Settled up our domestic affairs in the afternoon, and were waited upon by a sheik of the desert, who wished to supply camels and safe-conduct for us, over the regions of Arabian sand, to Palestine. Several of the crew—spruced up in their best, with huge turbans, a blue frock, and red shoes—squatted round the door of our lodgings, puffing as gravely as pashas, waiting to catch us, in passing in or out, to beg for backshiesh. Even the reis had the effrontery to wait upon the howadjis, also, soliciting backshiesh. Alick, our favorite among the dozen, wanted a recommendation of character. On the way up from the port, we came through a wretched collection of mud-hovels,—noticed on a former occasion,—where hundreds of women were huddled together, in a narrow lane, howling for the death of the husband of one of them. They would have been justified in laughing for joy; for it must be good luck when most of the husbands die. He was on a pilgrimage to Mecca, the news having just reached one of perhaps four widows. Soon after, a funeral passed through the narrow streets, near the coffee-bazaar, the corpse in an open box, on the

shoulders of bearers, followed by a rabble of screaming women, —presumed to have been all hired for the occasion. It conveys the idea of the loss of a greatly-distinguished individual, when this show of mourning is set up. I have seen a woman raise herself into a perfect frenzy by her weeping and frantic gesticulations; and all, perhaps, for a para, — the fifth part of a cent, — for some one she never saw, or cared a fig for, if she had.

Cairo, Dec. 24th. Tuesday. — Mr. Holland intimated his intention of leaving us, and we commenced a negotiation with the sheik for a conveyance to Ramlah, the ancient Arimathea, the residence of Joseph, the owner of the new sepulchre in which our Saviour was laid, when taken down from the cross. I visited the imposing but shabby tombs of the Mameluke kings. They were showy when first erected; but they are cobbled up stones, plastered and whitewashed, without any enduring properties. Some are broken in the walls; others have neither doors nor windows; and all of them are destined to utter annihilation, and that before many years. They are located on a barren sand-plain, south of the citadel, towards Fostat, — or Old Cairo, — the former capital. Nobody cares for them, and few, if any, of the vast population, know anything of the history of the oppressors who were buried in them. A living dog is more to be feared than a dead lion; and, however ornamental the once beautiful domes might have been, there is no national pride, no social adhesiveness, in the country, — nothing that is patriotic or progressive in the Arabic mind. To keep clear of the clutches of the reigning despot of to-day is of far more importance than protecting the hated remains of one who is safely dead.

In one of the most magnificent of these royal sepulchres, we rode in on the donkeys, — which shows the pollution to which they are exposed. Little did the sleeping tyrant suppose that

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a Christian dog would ever set his detested foot near the ashes of a royal Moslem; or, above all, have his dust trampled upon by an ass, ridden by a Frank. Such, however, is the destiny of kings; — their dust is as ignoble as our own.

While on the ground, the old aqueduct was examined, and also the new one, fed by a sakkia, turned by an ox, on the old Cairo road. Returning, we approached the citadel on its back side, in a deep ravine, where there was a swarm of forty-two Arab boys learning to beat the drum. The noise was confusion confused. Winding up, and passing through the fortress gate, we rode up in front of the new mosque, now being finished, the best-made building, on the best site, in Cairo, — overlooking everything, south, west, and a point or two north, for twenty miles. The front, minarets and columns, are built of alabaster, a stone that looks beautifully when first exposed to the air; but it soon changes, as the mosque has, — looking like a cake of tallow. It is already ruinous in appearance. The gilding, blue frosting of the dome within, and Arabic extracts from the Koran, have a fine effect. Having somewhere described the manner in which Mohammed Ali's remains were boxed up in a corner, waiting for sepulture, when the edifice for which he provided funds is completed, it is only necessary to speak of the few changes six weeks had brought about, since I stood in the same position, contemplating the departed glories of his reign. Standing on the wall, a little to the south of the mosque enclosure, we were shown where the massacre of the beys occurred. Looking off a little further on the plain, a large body of cavalry were practising broad-sword exercises in this manner, namely: On the top of a post was a tarbousch, — a red felt cap. All the horsemen were paraded on a line, and one would start his horse to a full run towards the post, and, in the act of turning, give the cap a slash, as though it were an infi-

del's head. Not one in a dozen could hit it. The horses evidently enjoyed the sport quite as much as their riders, for they seemed impatient for their turn. Close by the mosque a pretty house, of wood and brick, is building, by Abbas Pasha, whose passion for palaces has no limits. Whatever is constructed by the modern occupants of Egypt is frail, without the elements of durability. They are for a day; but the old Egyptians built for eternity. Coming down into the square in front of the citadel, — a place I very frequently visited, — it was a perpetual source of amusement to witness the feats of légerdemain. The performers were extremely clever; and some of their feats, in open day, on the bare sand, surrounded by a circle of lookers-on, would puzzle a philosopher. Blitz would find his match with these expert fellows. A cup, or tambourine, is passed round, into which a few paras are thrown.

Abbas Pasha's business-palace is near by the citadel. His grandfather's palace — a comfortable house, shaded by acacias — has been the scene of unrecorded proceedings, that would make one's hair rise, were a ninety-ninth part revealed. Adjacent is the mint, which was accessible; but we happened to arrive a little too late, on two occasions, for admission.

All Cairo was in a transition state, preparing for a grand illumination in honor of the pasha's mother, who was daily expected, on her return from a pilgrimage to Mecca. This looks like having a soul of her own, if no other woman has. Lanterns — paper, of course — were thrown across the streets; mosques had wooden krinkum-krankums, — perhaps Arabic letters, — with wire hooks for holding oil-pots.

Green garden vegetables, of various kinds, were on sale everywhere. The fruits from the Fyoom — an oasis in the Libyan Desert — were excellent.

We landed in Egypt on the first day of November; and,

since returning safely to Cairo, — having examined in detail all that is worthy of exploration, and seen and heard a multitude of things that cannot be written, — it is a gratification to look back upon our many adventures. My antiquarian taste was satisfactorily gratified; for we saw all the temples, tombs, grottos, sculptured monuments and historical localities, great and small, from Cleopatra's Needle, Pompey's Pillar, the Sphinx before the Pyramids of Geezeh, the Memnonium on the abandoned plain of Thebes, the colossal pillars of Karnak and Luxor, and the paintings in the sepulchral chambers of Beni Hassan, to the royal cartouches on the colonnades of Philæ. Instead of being contented and satisfied, my appetite was only sharpened for new researches in another direction. From my earliest recollection, when a child, standing by my mother's knee while she read to me of the magnificence of Solomon's temple, the holiness of Jerusalem, — of Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Garden of Gethsemane, the sufferings of our Lord and Saviour, and his triumphant victory over death, — I have had an irresistible desire to visit the Holy Land.

After running back and forward to the office of the United States vice-consulate, — which was under the care and administration of a sycophantic, insincere, ignorant young Syrian, while the vice-consul was on a visit to Damietta, — a contract was finally concluded with three sheiks, conjointly, for six camels and two drivers, to convey Mr. Warren and myself, water-casks, tent, bag and baggage, to Ramlah, the first town in Palestine. We felt no kind of confidence in the cringing, money-loving rascal, who was representing the official dignity of our country. In his face, deportment and postures, he looked the Turk, and proved to be a villain. We called on the British consul, to ascertain whether our business could not be transacted by him, instead of this ignorant, dishonest, smoking mule

of a boy. The clerk said it might lead to unpleasant feelings between the consuls, if our papers were executed there; and he thought, on the whole, we had better do the best we could at the American Eagle. All the while, these desert contracts, and Nile expeditions, do not fall within the jurisdiction of a consul at all; it is a branch of business they have incorporated with the legitimate business of the consulate, to enlarge their income. I warn those who may follow me to keep away from the office. Go to any other consul, rather than the American, till it is in clean hands; or to any of the English bankers, who are abundantly competent to write a contract, and for less than half the cost of the same unreadable instrument at the consulate. Having paid the demands, we asked distinctly if any other paper or papers were necessary. The answer was, no. And upon asking if a visé was not necessary to pass the frontier, we were again answered no. And this terminated the interview.

Wherever I turned, the note of preparation was heard, to welcome back the mother of the pasha. She is regarded as a fortunate woman to have been the mother of a viceroy, — by which she enjoys privileges superior to all other females in Egypt; and she has a further chance of being buried in a mosque, and becoming a Moslem saint, if females ever enjoy that distinction.

In the course of inquiries into the sanitary condition of Cairo, while we were up the river, to my surprise it was ascertained that a monthly bulletin was issued, — through the influence, doubtless, of some European, — giving the births and deaths of each month. As much confidence cannot be placed in it as in a document emanating from the government of France or England; yet it is, perhaps, a near approximation to truth.

From the 1st to the 10th of September, there died 56 males, 71 females, and 126 infants; total, 253. From the 11th to the

20th, 88 males, 83 females, 116 infants; total, 287. From the 21st to the 30th, 59 males, 65 females, and 100 infants; total, 224. From the 11th to the 20th of October, 80 males, 87 females, and 121 infants; total, 331. The births, all the while, show a slow increase of population. Marriages are not registered, nor the divorces published; if they were, it would astonish the Christian world. The population is estimated at two hundred thousand. The females, beyond all question, both in Cairo and throughout all Egypt, far exceed the males in numbers. It is believed by some that the exact population is known, as well as the exact resources of each pashalic; but policy requires all such information should be kept a profound secret; therefore a census is never taken.

While Hassan was making purchases, — buying a water-skin, two casks for holding water, and the little stores were gradually collecting, — an excursion was made to the site of Memphis, the great city, renowned for its stores of learning, where Plato studied three years, under the tuition of the wise priests. There is one single shanty — occupied by a slender, hawk-eyed Arab and family — where the very wonders of architecture formerly stood. Possibly this hut is not within the boundaries of ancient Memphis; and, if so, then there is not a solitary mud hovel or human habitation — no, not one — where sages, philosophers and metaphysicians, expounded doctrines that are still rolling their waves onward to all lands and to all nations. Plato and his successors have sometimes given, as their own, what they acquired in the palm-groves of Egypt; and had the Alexandrian library been spared the flames, we should have known more of the intellectuality, psychological pursuits, and historical discoveries, of those old priests, whose swathed carcasses are hauled out of the mummy-pits, every day in the year, by Ishmaelites, of whom it was prophesied that

their hands should be against every man, and every man's hand against them.

Among other memorable doings, we visited the island of Rhoda, ransacked the pasha's garden, tasted some of the mandarin oranges, examined those singular exotic trees, — the banyans, — which propagate and extend themselves indefinitely by dropping roots from the under side of the limbs, which, on catching the soil, send up a shaft for another tree, and thus progressively, till some barrier prevents a further development.

Next, we went to the palace of Shoobra, — a princely establishment, that must have originated in a French head, — created by Mohammed Ali's money. In all Europe there is not a fountain that surpasses the fairy representations of dolphins, crocodiles, &c., in marble, in and about a vast marble basin, at Shoobra, — large enough for a row-boat. A splendid pavilion, with gorgeously-furnished apartments in two corners, must have fully realized the magic descriptions of the Arabian Nights, when first completed, at the time the regenerator of Egypt was in the sunshine of political glory. An assembly of beautiful females bathed, frolicked, sang, played music, and lounged away life on silken divans, in this magnificent appendage of the royal harem. They were all purchased slaves, or the gifts of dependent officers to the pasha; and he the only spectator, — in short, the only man they ever saw. One of his favorite amusements is represented to have been to see a skiff-load of these Circassian beauties suddenly capsized into the water, while he sat smoking in state, enjoying the confusion that followed the apparent but not dangerous accident.

The apparatus for supplying water is out of order. The marble is dry. Some of the drapery has been removed. One of the buildings — the harem itself, if I remember rightly — has been taken down; and anybody, having the appearance of

a gentleman, may see the whole, walk through the orangery, and fill his pockets besides, by simply getting a permit to enter, through a banker, and feeing the hungry attendants with backshiesh on leaving the gate.

Returning, I witnessed some surprising feats of legerdemain, by the side of the street, near the moristan, or house for the insane. Among other unexplained, incomprehensible acts, was this. A wooden mortar, such as may be seen in poor families for pounding coffee, was placed on the ground, in the centre of a large circle of spectators. One of the company was asked to take it up, examine it thoroughly, and pass it round. When all were satisfied that it was a simple mortar, without drawers or secret apartments, it was replaced, and the juggler, reaching over, with bare arms, deposited a snake, about twenty inches long, tail first, in it. It required a little time to force its body down in. When he let go, the reptile's head hung over the edge, darting out its forked tongue with extreme rapidity. While every eye was intently fixed to that one point, and the exhibiter stood back with his patrons, the word was given to disappear, and, presto! the serpent disappeared! The mortar was again inspected, but its contents could not be found. This was an extraordinary affair; and, to this moment, remains a perplexing problem. What became of the snake?

Near the same spot, and, perhaps, in a dozen other parts of the city, a miniature exhibition is occasionally to be met with, exceeding all scenes of grossness and vulgarity that could be devised. An Arab sits down on the ground, having two iron spikes driven, not far from ten feet apart, a string being stretched between them. At one end is a rude rag figure, — to represent an African, for example, — and at the other a female. The pith of the show consists in touching the cord, so as to give motion to the puppets. I have seen a hundred or two of

men, women and children, round one of these debasing and scandalously demoralizing sights, delighted beyond measure; which shows the exceedingly depraved state of the public mind, and the still lower order of morals. It surprised me that officers and gentlemen who were passing along did not frown upon it, or that some show of regard for the respectability of the government of the city did not lead to an interdiction of such a reprehensible show and abominable corruption of the public manners.

Dec. 26th. — Our visits to Sakkara, to Memphis, and the great Necropolis, were of a character not to be forgotten; and, while everything is clear, and distinctly remembered, it is thought appropriate to write my observations at those memorable places.

By leaving Cairo before daylight, having engaged donkeys the night before, Mr. Holland and myself arrived at the ferry, four miles up stream, at Old Cairo, just after sunrise. We crossed over readily, but had some slight delay in landing on the Geezeh side. As one of the asses positively refused to leap out, one of the boatmen lifted him over the side, splash into the water, — the first incident of the day.

Every one who has surveyed the ground gives his impressions; but I shall distinguish my diary by stating the facts only, in regard to Sakkara, leaving all great conjectures about the probable sites of shrines, temples, statues and sphinxes, to other travellers.

Sakkara is a sand-plain, very near the border of the Libyan desert, on which there are several large pyramids, quite surprising enough, if there were no others on a more magnificent scale of magnitude, to have been objects of intense interest to all men. As it is, they are scarcely noticed; yet they are constructed of courses of hewn stone, and one is called the grand,

because it overtops the others. The group is nine miles up the river from the pyramids of Geezeh. The blocks of which they are constructed, being of a loose texture, — a soft, magnesian limestone, — are slowly but surely decomposing. A ridge of ashes-like powder lies on the projecting course of the one below, and so on, from the top to the base. A heavy gale of wind might blow it away, and another collection would follow. The foundations of two pyramids are observed, with only two or three layers of stone remaining, all above having decomposed, and probably blown off. By running a cane into the pile, the shape of the stones could be exposed to view. Thus a thousand years more, without the agency of man, will suffice to obliterate the last remains of the pyramids of Sakkara. It pre-supposes about as many ages as the world is supposed to have been formed, for such vast accumulations of stone to turn into an impalpable powder, which could be borne away by the restless winds of heaven. Sakkara appears originally to have been a plain; but when that was, no chronologer can decide. It is on a terrace of considerable elevation above the Nile, and occupied exclusively for a burial-field, — perhaps a mile and a half long by half a mile in width. Dr. Abbott, of Cairo, whose authority may be frequently appealed to, said he had no doubt the necropolis might have extended all of fifteen miles. In about the probable centre were the pyramids, sepulchres themselves, for the safe-keeping of privileged beings, while the inferiors, of all orders, were buried about them. The mode of burial was this: pits were dug, to the depth of fifty, sixty and eighty or more feet, and walled with hewn stone, laid in water-cement, — where there were seams and fractures, — so that they might be perfectly tight and dry. The opening at the top was commanded by a stone, admirably fitted. Bodies were mummefied, and then deposited, stratum super stratum, till the

pit was full, when the cover was hermetically sealed. By the side of it another was made, and another, far beyond the ability of any one to determine how far or how numerous they are. Probably this began to be neglected when Memphis was waning in prosperity. Sand drifted over the horizontal slabs indicating the pits, which was not kept at bay by the attentions of the people, as formerly; and its accumulation ultimately covered all the monuments, and concealed whatever edifices may have stood there, to the depth of ten, twenty, thirty and fifty feet, according to the character of the surface,— being evidently much deeper in some places than in others. Arabs — fierce, wild, haggard in their expression, nearly naked, with children growing up into the same form and appearance — prowl over this great city of the dead perpetually; for there are but few storms to interrupt their depredations, and their express business is to penetrate down through the dry sand, to strike the cover of a pit, which they rarely miss. Experience has taught them how to proceed to the best advantage. All hands commence by scooping up the sand with small dishes, broken pots, leaky baskets, and even bags; but, being dry, it rolls back about as rapidly as it is moved from the centre. The diameter of a shaft that reaches down thirty feet may require to be one hundred and fifty feet. It is a complete cone, with the apex inverted. The cover is raised with despatch, exposing the first tier of mummies, which are dragged out and carried up, and forthwith broken up and barbarously pulled to pieces. The hands are searched for finger-rings and bracelets; the ears and nose, for jewelry; the neck, for chains, &c.; and then shoes, sandals, net-caps, pieces of cotton cloth, and whatever else may be considered of a farthing's value, are stripped off, to be sold to travellers. Sometimes they strike on a sarcophagus that indicates the body of some one of more consequence than the

ordinary run of vulgar dead, which becomes an object of extraordinary examination. If it were the body of Psammeticus, or of Cheops himself, its destruction would be the more certain, in hope of gain. An inferior, common mummy is put into the fine case, and fastened as before. They then palm it off as an unopened sarcophagus, in which there may be a secretary of state to a Pharaoh, or the daughter of the high priest of the household. These impositions lead to ridiculous expectations with purchasers from Europe, and not unfrequently throw discredit on the old embalmers. Sakkara, therefore, from the quantities of human bones, in all directions, is a perfect Golgotha.

In one particular spot of that vast cemetery are pits in which are found vases filled with eggs; and not far from that spot are some extensive excavations, filled with the mummied ibis, in coarse earthen jars, piled up on each side the tunnel-like excavation. In other parts are found the bones and mummies of oxen; in other places, those of sheep; in others, those of dogs, of cats, of monkeys, &c. &c.

A new interest is felt in them, when it is recollected that every one may have been buried a thousand years before Moses wrote the history of the creation. A phrenological cabinet, of the very rarest specimens, might be readily collected within the space of a few rods square, and none be missed. The head of a young female, bearing a rich covering of chestnut-colored hair, in full ringlets, just torn from the body, was offered for a trifle. I picked up several of children. All the adult male skulls were strongly marked, with bold bumps of constructiveness and veneration, but deficient in firmness. They could heap up stone pyramids, but had not independence to rebel against oppressive monarchs or exacting priests. Some of the knit caps taken from the heads of the females were precisely

like those I once saw upon the head of a female Peruvian mummy, brought to Boston by Mr. Blake, of that city. Certainly, the cloth bandages were well woven, the threads evenly spun; and why its fabric was not as good as those of modern manufacture remains to be shown.

Wild animals, particularly jackals, come down in the night, and gnaw these marrowless bones; but the taste and odor of the bitumen protects them from their destructive teeth. I took up lumps of the composition that came out of the cavities of the chest or abdomen, strongly resembling asphaltum. Many curious antiques — as miniature porcelain mummies, copper and bronze figures, bronze beetles, hooks, and articles for which no use can be assigned — are constantly being found; but no one pretends to hazard the mention of the epoch to which they belong. At Pompeii and Herculaneum the workmen brought to light things that had resisted the earth's pressure and the elements for seventeen centuries; but they were trifles of to-day, in comparison with the memorials of the ancient Egyptians, which may have been in the mummy-pits many centuries before Menes, the first king, began to reign. Specimens of sculpture are buried on this plain, beyond a question, of immense value in illustration of the state of the arts at an early age of the world. Two sphinxes, the size of full-grown lions, beautifully executed, having very mild, sweet expressions, were lately drawn out of a deep hole. In all the sculptures of Egypt, thus far examined, nothing has come up to these, in point of facial comeliness. An impression is indulged that the Arabs have struck upon an avenue of sphinxes, which lead to a buried temple, in front of the largest pyramid. That they were from the chisel of a master, is certain; and taken at a depth of at least thirty-five feet below the sand, which was the primitive level, and on the same plane with the base of the

pyramid, and not far from three hundred feet west of it. I should have rejoiced to have purchased them for the Boston Athenæum, but was informed that the pasha had presented them to Baron Rothschild. The faces are superior to the sculptures from Nineveh, which I have studied with no ordinary feelings of gratification. If the immense body of sand could be removed from Sakkara to the terrace lower down, the revelations would astonish the civilized world. I entertain the opinion that such a day will come; and much that is mysterious in respect to the written and sculptured history of the first ages of the human family, or that branch of it which has left enduring monuments in the valley of the Nile, may hereafter be read understandingly.

Memphis—now Metrihenny—is recognized by high mounds, covered partially by palm-groves, and an occasional block of red granite, a piece of polished marble, and other evidences that civilization made its mark there. Soon after our visit, it was heralded that a French savan had discovered the true location of Memphis; but no reliance can be placed on the story. The mounds are the best guides; and the whole tenor of history and tradition points to near Sakkara. But there is one strong, and, to me, conclusive reason for believing that Metrihenny was the veritable site of Memphis; namely, a statue of Rameses II., a renowned king, which must have stood near where it was discovered, because it is too massive to have been removed. Originally, it is estimated to have been on a pedestal sixty feet high. The portion of it remaining may be thirty feet long, lying on its face in a mud-hole, six feet below the land-level,—showing all that depth to have accumulated since the statue was overturned. The left arm — from the shut fingers to the shoulder — was thought to be twelve feet. It must have been near some very distinguished edifice.

Here, too, is room for an antiquarian to build himself a name, and secure a niche in the temple of fame.

On our return, we passed a gay Arab wedding, — a veiled bride, going to the hovel, perhaps, of a husband whom she never saw, on a led horse, followed by a group of envious females, singing merrily, as they kept up with the happy creature ahead. The husband — a firm, thick-set, staring fellow of forty — was considerably in advance, on horseback, with a rabble of people footing it by his side. He may have had three wives already, for four is a legal number, — a privilege which country village Arabs, to my certain knowledge, avail themselves of. However poor, it does not deter them from copying the example of their superiors, who, if they do not avail themselves of as many wives as they might, maintain an establishment of female servants, whom they can manage more easily, and dispose of without trouble, and with less delay, than a legal wife could be put fairly aside, should she have children, and especially sons.

This novel cavalcade had but just passed out of sight when a painful contrast was presented; for we overtook a party of prisoners, on foot, barefooted, and all tied together with strong cords, securely guarded by foot and horse soldiers, on their way to Cairo to be flogged for not paying their taxes. Some of them were gray-bearded men, — gray heads being never seen, as their pates are regularly shaven, — with several quite young fellahs, whose beards had not grown. They were hurried along through the dust, in a scorching sun, with less humanity than would be shown to cattle, even among themselves. Here poverty is a crime; and poor, wretched, bare-legged people, whose whole lives are a protracted scene of political degradation, — who know nothing and have nothing, — are cruelly punished for not meeting promptly the arbitrary

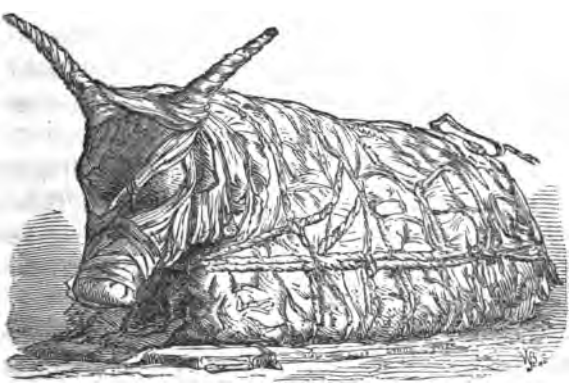
demands of a despotic ruler. After suffering very severely, sometimes the relations contrive to liberate a delinquent; and there have been instances where the fellah has suffered excruciatingly, rather than relinquish his money, which he might have done without losing his all. This shows that there is no national feeling, no respect for government, no confidence that their rights or property will be protected. A case is related of a man who was punished several times, and once to the extent of a hundred lashes, — having, all along, declared his inability to pay the tax. On rising, at the termination of a repetition of the hellish policy of the law, — which is nothing more nor less than the uncontrolled will of the pasha, — a small gold coin dropped from his mouth, where it had been studiously concealed, and for the sake of retaining which he had been beaten almost to jelly! It was instantly snatched up, and the righteousness or expediency — I hardly know which — of the system applauded; and then he was re-punished for the deception. Under all this, he told his wife, with a chuckle, that they did not get it till they were obliged to flog him so many times; as though it were a praiseworthy and meritorious act of bravery to have undergone the pains of the damned rather than part with a bit of gold! My sympathies were so much excited in behalf of these wretched beings, — dragged from their mud hovels, where there never was a comfort, or a rational social feeling towards each other, or a sustaining religious hope that they could comprehend, to a city which they were never permitted to visit till marched into it, in fetters and manacles, to be brutalized by the bastinado for not rendering up what they never had, — that it threw a gloom over the remainder of the jaunt; and I was thankful for a new excitement, to divert my mind from the contemplation of a train of painful thoughts.

Dec. 27th. Friday. — Preparations were going on for the

voyage through the desert, — a room in our lodging-house resembling a grocery-shop. We are to travel on camels, and not by railroads. This will explain the necessity of making such a mountain out of a mole-hill. We are going over a desolate waste of barren sand, where there are no houses, no trees, no security but our own powers of resistance, and the overawing influence of Mohammed Ali's name, to keep the Bedouin Arabs from robbing and murdering all who venture upon that broad theatre of their exploits. They were sole and unconditional masters between Egypt and Palestine, till the old warrior outwitted the whole, by drawing them into bodies, where they were butchered thoroughly enough to convince them that it was good policy not to molest travellers. It is fear of a repetition of his measures that still keeps them in check. They roam over those frightful regions with an elasticity and freedom of motion that shows they acknowledge no allegiance to God, man, or the devil. They are a cut-throat looking race.

Dr. Abbott, with whom we dined, — referred to at page 74, — has resided in Cairo many years. In his person he is short and thick-set, and dresses in the costume of a Turkish gentleman. He married an Armenian lady, who has never acquired the English language; nor has he a child able to speak it. He is, therefore, compelled to conform to them, and speaks Arabic fluently. His household is conducted on the native principles, and in conformity to the etiquette of Cairo society we were entertained. This gentleman has been eighteen years in collecting an exceedingly interesting museum of ancient Egyptian curiosities, illustrative of the manners, customs, arts and sciences, in the Nilotic valley, in the early ages of the world. I have not only inspected some of the most precious articles in detail, but I have also been at the localities where they were found, and can bear testimony to their genuineness

and rarity, and the value they possess. It is the intention of the proprietor to transport the whole of his cabinet to the United States, for exhibition in the principal cities. The collection is calculated to make a sensation whenever it arrives. The sacred bull, Apis, swathed and mummefied, with wide-spread, gilded horns, — requiring seven stout men to lift, — he said he had already sent, by the way of Suez, to New York. There is a prohibition against the export of any antiquities from the country without the leave of the pasha. Fearing a denial in that quarter, Dr. Abbott thought the only chance of not being intercepted was to send the bull by a route which would never be suspected as a way to America.

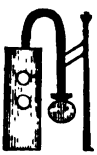


SACRED BULL MUMMY.

This unique collection may safely be said to be unrivalled for antiquity. Many of the curiosities carry the mind back to a primeval condition of society. Some statuettes give an idea of the postures, if not the pursuits, of certain classes of people. I subjoin a number of examples.

No. 3, in his catalogue, is a limestone statue of a Hierogrammatist, sitting, and exhibiting a volume on his knees. This

statue is in good preservation, and is remarkable for the instrument which is hung over its left shoulder, representing a bag, or basket, which the scribes carried with them; and hence used, in the inscriptions, as the symbolic hieroglyphic of that office, and of the art of writing.



No. 9 is a group of figures about two feet high, in fine limestone, from the quarries of Toura. It represents a man in an ancient dress and position, the left leg slightly advanced, and his son sustaining his right knee; while his daughter, more advanced in years, and in a kneeling position, sustains his left. This group still preserves much of its ancient color. Such groups are common, in basso relievo, on the walls of the more ancient tombs. It is from the same tomb in Sakkara.

No. 23 is a fragment, in red granite, of the left foot of a statue of the Great Rameses. It is of colossal proportions. From Thebes.

28. Fragment of the statue of an Egyptian lady sitting on a stool. In the line of hieroglyphics down the front of her dress will probably be found the names of her parents. This fragment is of elegant design; and, from the style, about the time of Rameses. From Sakkara.

48. The wheel, tire, and shafts of a chariot, found in a tomb near the Pyramids of Dashoor. The wheel has but six spokes, like those chariots represented in the paintings and sculptures: these, however, appear to be somewhat differently constructed, for they seem to have been strengthened by an inner circle.

62. Model of a house, in which are various domestic and agricultural implements, similar to those in use at the present day in the villages of Upper Egypt. From Thebes.

6. Cylindrical toilet-box, of hard wood, engraved in outline, filled with some white composition. It represents women in

the approved positions of Egyptian dance, playing on various instruments. Bouquets of flowers are strewed upon the floor; and one of the women, as if to gratify all the senses at once, pours into the cup of the person seated, before whom the others are dancing and singing, some grateful beverage. A line of hieroglyphics encircles the upper part, and the usual ornament of the base of an apartment decorates the lower part of the box. This curious piece of antiquity was found in Sakkara; but, both in composition and style, it resembles the best designs painted on the walls of the tombs at Thebes.

34. Lady's dress-comb, the upper part representing the body of a lobster. From Sakkara.

38. Basket, similar to those manufactured in Nubia at the present day, containing the following articles: — Two needles of bronze, two skeins of thread, a bronze spatula, a wooden comb, two alabaster studs, and two colored porcelain balls. From Sakkara.

42. Small figure, in hard brown wood, representing one of the Asiatic tribes, prostrate. It probably formed part of a group, representing the king trampling under foot the enemies of Egypt. From Sakkara.

72. Lion's head, in wood, of excellent workmanship, which formed part of an elegant chair, similar to those represented in the Beban-el-Molook. In one eye is still the remains of the gold orb and blue enamel of the lid. From Sakkara.

81. Curved stick, such as is seen in the hand of the hunter in the representations of this ancient employment, in the older tombs. It was used for throwing at birds; and, by its form, very probably partook of the property of the beaumerang of the New Hollanders, or the trombash, still in use in the interior of Africa. This sample is inscribed, and bears a cartouche compounded of the word AMUN, and

other characters, terminating in the ▭ feminine article. The cartouche is preceded by the title "Royal Daughter." Perhaps this instrument was used, also, by the ladies of those heroic times, who, in the representations above quoted, are frequently seen accompanying their fathers or husbands in a small boat, made of the papyrus, in which, it appears, the ancient Egyptians navigated the canals, or smaller branches of the parent stream, — which, in those days, particularly in the Delta, abounded in the papyrus plant, — in quest of birds and hippopotami. There is a bronze nail at the top of the handle. This remarkable instrument was found in a tomb at Thebes.

82. Fragment of a walking-stick, on which there is engraved a line of hieroglyphics, preceded by a man in the act of adorning the Theban Triad; probably in allusion to the office of the possessor, whose name and titles are contained in the inscription. This stick is ornamented with an ivory top. From Thebes.

83. Fragment of another stick, with an inscription. The heads of the tribes of Israel had their names inscribed on their staffs (Numb. 17: 2); and it would appear that the heads of families, in ancient Egypt, also practised this custom; for the chief person, in the representations on the walls of the ancient tombs, has always a staff. All these sticks are much longer than the modern walking-stick. From Thebes.

104. Net, containing the fruit of a species of the palm, now nowhere to be found in the valley of the Nile, but which grows abundantly in some of the valleys of the Bishareen desert, between Korosko and Aboo-Hamed. From Thebes.

112. Fragment of a breast-plate, made of pieces of iron in the form of scales, one of which takes the shape of a cartouche, and has stamped thereon the name of the Egyptian King Shishak, who invaded Jerusalem B. C. 971.

383. A row of wooden dolls. From Thebes.

Shelf, with terra-cotta lamps, of which the most worthy is a glazed porcelain lamp, found in the great pyramid of Geezeh.

129. A statue of Thoth, the most exquisite work of art in the collection. This beautiful little statue is only two inches and a quarter high, is made of fine limestone, but has the appearance of polished ivory. It is in perfect preservation, and of the most ancient style of sculpture. From Memphis.

168. Statue of Isis and Horus, in white marble. The goddess has a bronze head-dress, and a bronze hawk stands behind her throne, which it embraces with the expanded wings: these were formerly beautifully inlaid with enamel, or other vitreous substance. The plinth of this curious specimen is of bronze, and there is an inscription down the back of the goddess. From Sakkara.

201. One limb of a pair of scissors, fantastically terminating in the figure of a prisoner. It is in bronze. Also a pin, nail, and other instruments, in the same metal. From Sakkara.

Prenomen of the father of Sesostris, in porcelain. The oval, which encircles the name, represents a double rope. The

whole is a good example of the style of hieroglyphics of his tomb and age. From Sakkara.

43. Large ear-ring, terminating in a bull's head: it is of similar construction with the above, being made of gold wire, minutely decorated. The eyes have been inserted, and it has been formerly ornamented with precious stones in the horns and forehead. From Upper Egypt.

49. Beautiful little figure, in gold, of a bird with a human head. The wings are expanded. This figure represents the soul departing from the body, and resembles one in the museum of the Vatican, found in Etruria. It and Fig. 91 were taken, by Mr. Abbott, from the breast of the mummy of a priestess, which was discovered at Sakkara.

31. A pair of gold ear-rings, hollow, and minutely ornamented; one end terminating in a tiger's head, holding an engraved stone, and the smaller end in a hook, which fastens into the gold setting of the stone. From Upper Egypt.

107. A piece of bread, such as is found in tombs, deposited with the dead in Egypt; from which circumstance the Greek story of appeasing the voracity of the triple-headed guardian of the entrance to the dominions of Pluto is probably derived. From Thebes.

108–9. Three flint knives, used in making the incision into the cavity of the abdomen, in the process of embalming, — a metal instrument not being considered lawful. From Sakkara.

10. Toilet-stand, for containing the black pigment, called kohol, for blackening the margin of the eyelids; a custom now, as in the days of Jezebel, prevalent in the east. From Sakkara.

55. A small tablet, representing an Egyptian lady, in the attitude of prayer, making an offering to Phre, who is in the position and habit of Amun, of whom, also, he has the azure complexion. From Thebes.

I have taken the liberty of introducing these particulars for the purpose of showing what skill the ancient Egyptians

possessed in the arts, and particularly in the manufacture of jewelry. Abundant specimens of glass — colored, plain and figured — indicate their familiarity with that branch of industry. It has been suggested, from some singular circular pieces, bearing certain figures, that glass, in that form, might have been the circulating medium.

They made curious devices in ivory, bronze, wood and stone, thousands of which have been found and lost again, in the phases Egypt has been passing through in the last three thousand years; but, if civilization triumphs there, and life and property are protected, before many lustrums pass over our heads, new researches will be commenced, under better auspices than have heretofore characterized explorations among the mummy-pits and temples, and new and extraordinary developments may therefore be reasonably anticipated.

Two miniature heads, to show the manner of dressing the hair, of great antiquity, are here introduced, in this cabinet; and also two female figures, which may as well pass for spoons as anything else. As mere domestic instruments, they indicate the imitative powers of somebody. No. 4 has a mild expression, and is decidedly a Caucasian face; and so, also, is No. 1; but No. 3 has less character.

1. Two ear-rings and necklace of gold, found in a jar at Durdera. These ornaments are made of gold leaf, similar to that upon which hieroglyphics are usually stamped. There are three pendants of lapis lazuli, and two beads of blue glass

EAR-RING.

OVAL PLATE.

attached to the centre, where is also an oval amethyst bead, capped at each end with gold. But, what is particularly curi-

ous is, that the name of Menes is stamped upon the ear-rings, and upon eight oval plates of the necklace. These ovals have a dotted ornament around them, and are not of the same shape as the space enclosing royal names. The circle around the ear-rings is plain, and in form a cartouche. At equal distances between these ovals are curiously-entwined devices, attached by a rude chain, formed of thin strips of flattened gold.

Having examined with care the necklace of Menes, I have no hesitation in saying it is a beautiful piece of gold working, that would be rich in these days of taste, and certainly a very costly ornament.

But the crowning gem of Dr. Abbott's museum, which I have also seen, and had upon my own finger, and for which he was offered by an English nobleman two thousand dollars, — the genuineness of which is not called in question by profound Egyptian antiquarians, — is the signet-ring of Cheops, the builder of the largest of the pyramids at Geezeh.

2. Signet-ring, bearing the name of Shoofoo, the Suphis

Fig. 1.

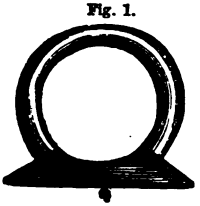


Fig. 2.

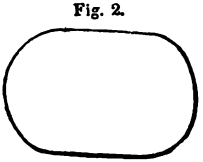
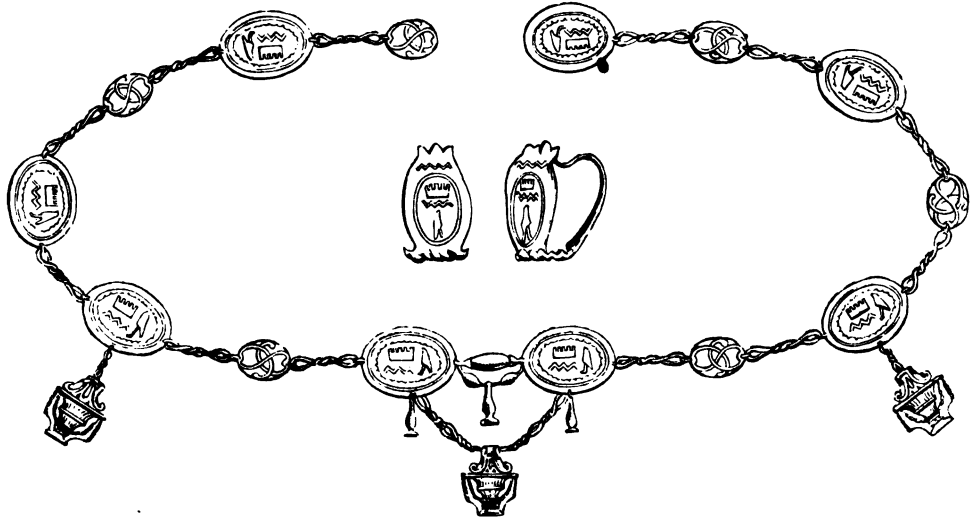


Fig. 3.

(Cheops) of the Greeks. In shape and dimensions it resembles Figure 1, and the size of the impression exactly corre-



NECKLACE AND EARRINGS OF MENES, FIRST KING OF EGYPT. Page 250.

sponds to Figure 2. Figure 3 is a magnified representation of the inscription engraved on it. This remarkable piece of antiquity is in the highest state of preservation, and is said to have been found at Geezeh, in a tomb near the excavation of Colonel Vise, called Campbell's tomb. It is of fine gold, and weighs nearly three sovereigns. The style of the hieroglyphics is in perfect accordance with those in the tombs about the great pyramid, and among the hieroglyphics within the oval is the name of that Pharaoh of whom the pyramid was the tomb. The details are minutely accurate, and beautifully executed. The heaven is engraved with stars; the fox, or jackal, has significant lines within its contour; the hatchets have their handles bound with thongs, as is usual in the sculptures; the volumes have the string which binds them hanging below the roll, differing in this respect from any example in sculptured or painted hieroglyphics. The determinative for country is studded with dots, representing the sand of the mountains at the margin of the valley of Egypt. The instrument, as in the larger hieroglyphics, has the tongue and semilunar mark of the sculptured examples; as is the case also with the heart-shaped vase. The name is surmounted with the globe and feathers, decorated in the usual manner; and the ring of the cartouche is engraved with marks representing a rope, — never seen in the sculptures; and the only instance of a royal name similarly encircled is a porcelain example in this collection, enclosing the name of the father of Sesostris. The O in the name is placed as in the examples sculptured in the tombs, not in the axis of the cartouche. The chickens, or ducklings, have their unfledged wings; the Cerastes its horns, now only to be seen with the magnifying glass. These differences are highly in favor of its genuineness; for it is improbable that a fabricator would have ventured to have deviated from the

more known examples, even if he could have succeeded in counterfeiting the style of the period to which the name belongs.

3. Ring, of fine gold, bearing a royal name, found in a wooden box at Thebes.

4. A gold ring, with the figure of Isis, sitting. It is solid, of the shape called opisphendone. From Sakkara.

5. Ring, of fine gold, with a figure of the lion-headed goddess engraved in two cartouches, each surmounted with the two feathers, that are usual on royal names. From Sakkara.

6. Scarabæus, on a pivot of gold, forming a ring. It has the name of Tothmes III.,—according to some, the Pharaoh of the Exodus. From Sakkara.

7. Ring, of gold, in which are tastefully arranged two blue stones and one red one. From Thebes.

8. Ring, of gold, with a pyramidal stone. From Sakkara.

9. Ring, of gold, with a square plate. From Sakkara.

10. Ring, with a cornelian scarabæus. From Sakkara.

11. Ring, of silver, solid, and of the Greek form. It bears the name of Amunoph. From Sakkara.

12. Square ring, of silver, with the name of Tothmes. From Sakkara.

13. Silver ring, very thin. From Sakkara.

Through Dr. Abbott, new and important medical facts were collected. He is a believer in the non-contagious character of the plague, and perfectly coincides, in that respect, with Clot Bey. He assured me that he visited plague-patients as he does all others, without any apprehensions of danger to himself, and regardless of all precautions. Were it not that it is both impossible and indiscreet to write out all the speculations that are gathered in Egypt, in relation to its ancient history, and civil, political and sanitary condition, the theory might be discussed which declares that men and all the domestic animals

were made into mummies to preserve the public health, — the plague being first developed, or re-developed, when the dead were put into the ground to decompose. There is something in this idea worth following out. The present inhabitants bury superficially, without coffins. All the burying-fields are immensely large, and they are very numerous. But that is not all; vast accumulations of bodies are not unfrequently found in small yards, near the streets, which, in the hot climate of Cairo, must modify the atmosphere very considerably, by loading it with putrid animal exhalations. No poison is said to be so virulent and fatal as the putrescent matter of a human body, — the material with which the negroes of Africa charge their arrows for fatal execution against their enemies.

Dec. 28th. Saturday. — Took our departure from Cairo about eleven o'clock this morning, with six camels, two being called dromedaries. We were accompanied by Hassan — a tall, strong, good-looking Arab, who would pass, in Christian clothes, for a European — and his African slave, Buckheat, who had charge of the animals; and with these two — neither of whom could speak a word of English — we pushed out into the desert of Arabia. One camel was laden with two water-casks, of nearly the ordinary capacity of barrels; another had a tent, and a wooden chest, secured by a padlock, containing hard bread, coffee, sugar, tin canisters of prepared meats, sardines, tin plates, tin cups, and such table furniture as would bend before it would break. This box is called a canteen. Then there was rice, and some chocolate, which had been presented to me by Mr. Baker, the great American manufacturer of that article, at Boston. There was also a bag of charcoal, and a goat-skin, taken off whole, filled with water, for the camel-drivers. Another camel was laden with beans and barley, for the animals. Added to this, our personal baggage — twice as much as

was necessary, with our mattresses, big, shaggy over-coats, with capotes, a box containing a dozen bottles of ale, besides little parcels and packages, belonging to the Arabs—making four stout loads.

Two of the camels were for our personal service;—gaunt, shabby-haired creatures, with long, serpentine necks, having saddles of the stiffest, ugliest, and most uncomfortable form, without stirrups, but with a high wooden pin, large as a man's wrist, standing bolt up in front and behind. By spreading the Constantinople coats two or three double, we could sit with tolerable comfort between the pins. The camels, tied one to the other, were led from the narrow lane, where they were laden,—all kneeling at once to receive their burdens,—outside the gate, towards Shoobra. All three of the sheiks who were interested in the bargain, as specified in a contract, made their appearance, to take leave, but more especially to beg for backshiesh. A part of the contract had been paid down, and the remainder was to be handed over to Hassan, at the termination of the journey. Hassan, the Nile dragoman, also followed outside the city, to wish us well, and get a sop of backshiesh.

We now mounted, took leave of all who honored us by a parting walk to the wall, and started for the sand-hills. Instead of striking off easterly, the sheik inclined north-easterly, which gave us a fine opportunity to see all the settlements, palm-groves and vegetation, on the borders of the sand. The walk of the camels, by a watch, was, upon an average, two miles and a half an hour, and no more. The motion was extremely unpleasant to a beginner, being a sudden jerk back and forward, without any variation. The rider must keep a bright look-out, not to be snapped in two, or get impaled on one of the saddle-pins. By four o'clock, P. M., we were brought to an apology

for a town, called Houk. There was a narrow street, with a bazaar, where soft bread, pipes, coffee, dates, corn, oranges, &c., could be purchased. Hassan led the way into a sort of barn-yard, through a gate, from the street. Each side, on entering, had a raised stone platform, under a roof of poles, covered with straw and loose palm-boughs. That was our place of lodgment; our apparatus for cooking, beds, and other property, being piled up in a corner. The camels were tied in the yard, and fed on pounded dry straw, in which there may have been a quart of horse-beans for each. There we slept on mother earth, — the only place for travellers, and more securely than if encamped outside the town. Between the fleas and other vermin, which made an immediate attack, the night was one of warfare and bloodshed. Our ankles appeared to have the measles, and our bodies as though they had had a charge of hot shot. It gave us the best realization of the plagues of Egypt we had experienced. A voluntary or appointed guard — I know not which — made their appearance, and demanded backshiesh, for seeing us safely through the night. The service of keeping off these hungry fleas would have been paid more cheerfully.

On the way from Cairo, we turned aside to find the site of the renowned Heliopolis, indicated by a place known as Mata-réeh. Hassan ran from one slight elevation to another, to descry the Needle, as he called a solitary red granite obelisk, of the reign of Orsirtasen I., who ascended the throne 1740 years before Christ, and reigned forty-three years. According to Strabo, it was a magnificent city, with a temple of amazing splendor, approached through avenues of sphinxes, twenty feet apart; several lofty propyla, and the sacred temple of the sun within, and the walls covered with colossal figures. But one solitary vestige remains, of the opulent and ancient abode of

an order of priests of whose knowledge little is known, save that their learning gave a character to Heliopolis, which in Scripture is called On. The obelisk is sixty-eight feet two inches high, from the pedestal. The ground has been raised, all round it, above the original level. One side is six feet one inch wide on the north-east, and six feet three inches, on the east and west. The mound where the city stood is recognized. There is a small hut near the obelisk, which is fenced into a garden, and a few paras are demanded for opening the gate. Not far from this is the tomb of the renowned Malek Adel, who began to reign in 686. Here the balm of Gilead was raised, on land owned by Cleopatra, the trees having been brought from Judea. At Heliopolis Moses is represented to have been educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.

Dec. 29th. Sunday. — Put up last night at Tel Basta, whose high, irregular mound points out the site of another city, of remote antiquity, — Bubastis, the Pibeseth of the Bible; and, still further off in the mist of far remoter ages, the city of Pasht, the hunting goddess of Egypt. Like all the mounds I have scrutinized, it is of broken brick, pottery, hewn stone and filth. Herodotus describes it graphically, and says it was truly rich in sculptures, and whatever could give character to its public edifices. Rameses the Great, who figured in the world's history 1355 years before Christ, left his name here. Here may be seen the old canal of Arsinoë, which connected the Nile with the Red Sea, — a work of surprising labor, and of no ordinary interest, considering that it was dug, according to Strabo, by Sesostris, before the Trojan war. Others give the credit of the enterprise to Psammeticus II., 600 years before our era, at the period of the captivity of Jehoiakim.

We were marched into a shed, with openings large enough for a sheep to leap through, awfully filthy, and found our treas-

ures about us. Our day's journey had not brought us beyond the jurisdiction of the fleas; we were less able to contend against them than previously, from the loss of vitality. For the use of the yard, security, and lodging on a bed of vermin almost strong enough to carry us on their backs, there was a charge of seventeen cents, of our currency, — cheap, and yet how dear! The camel knelt down for me to mount; and, as soon as I had flung one limb over the saddle, he raised up his stern so instantaneously as to throw me over his head, and plunge me into the sand; but the fright exceeded the hurt. The sand blew furiously, cutting like a wire, intermixed with fine particles of dust from the mounds. This obliged us to put on gauze veils, which we had taken the precaution to have made in Naples, with reference to this journey.

Passing the gathering-place of the returning pilgrims from Mecca, we were gratified with the opportunity of witnessing the assembly. Tents were pitched on the sand, and their fine Arab steeds were hampered. The whole were to wait till the pasha's mother should arrive, when a grand procession would enter Cairo. Several large tents were gayly painted, and there were camels, donkeys, men gayly dressed, and veiled women; all holy, in their own estimation, for they had been seven times round the Caäba, and had prayed before the sepulchre of their prophet. There were small logs of petrified wood lying about on the sand, appearing like portions of a limb of a tree converted into flint. Quite a collection might be made of them, if a person chose to be at the expense of camels to convey them away. The petrified forest is more imaginary than real. I am perplexed in regard to the origin of this silicified wood; whether it was manufactured by nature here, or has been transported from a distance, is a question for geologists.

Unfortunately, the water-skin sprung a leak, this morning,

and half its precious contents was wasted. A few paras were the means of refilling it. Being fatigued by riding without stirrups, I caused an amusing scene by inquiring where a bit of rope could be purchased. Nothing but whip-lashes were to be had in the bazaar. My inquiry for rope — using the Arabic word — excited some commotion; and a youngster bethought him that, at a certain house, near the mosque, there was a cord. Down I went to the premises; but, instead of a man, a woman opened the door to my rap. My Frank dress and shorn face startled her quite as much as the sight of a female surprised me. She slammed the door to, instanter. Back I went for the person who gave the information, and we returned together. After some parleying, a number of women — sufficiently veiled not to be scandalized — came out, with the rope, which was purchased for six piastres, — thirty cents. A battalion of boys, by this time, had gathered about; and they all followed, helter-skelter, to ascertain whether I was intending to hang myself or one of the citizens. My friend, the ambassador, succeeded in driving them off.

An old, broken-down Italian introduced himself as a health-officer, and wished to visé our passports; but, as this was not his business, his services were declined. He accosted me in another character, and announced himself as a physician; and, thereupon, begged a bottle of beer from a brother professional, although, a moment before, he invited me to go and get a drink of brandy with him.

Being once more under way, braced in the new stirrups, striking off more towards the sun-rising, with nothing but sand before us, we were slowly progressing in our journey, when, in the distance, a singular vehicle hove in sight, which turned out to be an odd sort of coach-body, slung on two long poles, sustained by two camels, harnessed in, like a horse, between

the thills in front, and the rear camel following, holding up the other extremities. The conclusion was that a harem was being transported across the desert to Cairo. While gazing curiously upon the odd but comfortable car, a dromedary came swiftly pacing over the sand, mounted by an Arab, fantastically dressed in slouched sleeves, parti-colored head-dress with dangling fringe, red boots, and a sword and pistols in his girdle. As soon as he came alongside, to my amazement, he called me by name, and inquired in regard to my health, &c. He was asked how he knew who I was. "Why, you used to call on my master, Col. Willoughby, in Paris; don't you remember me?" True enough, he was a servant whom I knew there; and the supposed harem consisted only of the veritable Col. Willoughby, of Brooklyn, New York, just emerging from the desert, having come from Jerusalem. Being in poor health, this contrivance was rigged to convey him with more ease than it could be accomplished on a camel or horse. I sent a card to him, with compliments and good wishes.

Desert of Arabia, Dec. 30th. Monday. — First encampment on the sand, away from all settlements, — the sun going down below the horizon into the real gravel. The wind was blowing a gale. A few dry, shrivelled branches of thorny shrubs, and an occasional tuft of coarse grass, were noticed, which the camels seized with a relish, — browsing as they travelled. Hassan, the sheik, was a mile or more ahead, in pursuit of a safe encamping-ground, when a tall, mouse-colored hound came suddenly very near our trail, — the camels being tied in single file, the foremost led by Buckheat. Without reflection, I called to him, chirped, &c.; and he immediately trotted within about a rod. This frightened my camel, and away he sprang, breaking the halter, and cantering and leaping at a frightful rate. In one of his vaultings, he threw me over the saddle-pins;

and I fell ten feet, on the hard gravel-pan, quite as bad as a bed of granite. Had it not been for the thick overcoat, acting as a cushion, my shoulder and right thigh would certainly have been fractured or dislocated. The contusion was very severe indeed. The contents of some of my pockets were lost; and, among other lamented articles, an excellent penknife, purchased in London, that seemed indispensable in travelling. After the camel had raced till he was satisfied, Hassan caught him; but his search for the lost effects was fruitless. Stiff and bruised as I was, my diary was written, by a paper lantern held close to my feet.

By good fortune, we fell in, just at dark, with Mr. John C. Culburton, of New Albany, Indiana, who was crossing from Palestine to Egypt, and with whom I was slightly acquainted, having formerly met him at Matlock, in England. Our tents were pitched near together; and, by mixing stores and clubbing dishes, we were his guests at supper, while our Arabs were smoking and jabbering outside. The camels were cast in a circle round the tent, with their heads inward, with a bit of rope, to confine the fore-leg doubled upon itself, so that, if they rose, they must hobble upon three legs. This is a universal precaution taken with these animals, wherever I have met with them, at night. A little bag, containing some three or four quarts of dry, pounded straw, — fine as though it had been broken in a mortar, — mixed with an ordinary measure of beans, of from one to two quarts, slung, by a bail, back of their ears, was their supper. Not a drop of water was or could be given them. Camels are exceedingly fond of beans. I have seen a camel go without his supper, after carrying a heavy burden, in a hot sun, all day, rather than feed on barley. Horses, in Egypt, are equally eager for the same food.

There was no sign of a track on the hard pan; but, where

the sand drifted, tracks were not unfrequently observed. Signs of drenching rains were distinctly indicated by the deep furrows gullied into the gravel-beds by the running water. Exceedingly well-marked jasper pebbles, cleft in two, as if effected by a chisel, were everywhere strewn around. The concentric circles, of different colors, were they ground, would be very beautiful for ear-rings and bosom-pins. Hassan contrived to get very near when any food was in sight. Like his countrymen, he is an arrant beggar, not by asking outright, but by eying wishfully, as a dog does while waiting for crumbs. For himself and Buckheat, he brought about a peck of millet-meal, — very similar to Indian-corn meal, — without a drop of water. They subsisted thus: Out of the skin, a little water was mixed with the meal, kneaded, by the hand, in a wooden bowl, and then flattened. An hour or two before encamping-time, wherever a twig or a dead root could be picked up, it was thrown on the top of the luggage, and thus fuel was collected to make a fire. In the hot coals and ashes, raked open, the cake was placed, and covered. When baked, it had a leathery, doughy toughness; and that was their supper. Generally two were baked, and one saved for their breakfast, — which was taken about nine o'clock, next morning, while walking by the side of the camels. When we had finished our breakfast, before daylight, a tin cup of coffee, thick and black, was given them, which master and slave took cosily together.

Dec. 31. *Tuesday.* — This was the last day of 1850; and we were encamped in company with a large caravan of sixty camels, laden with merchandise, bound to Ramlah, the ancient Arimathea, in Palestine. With them was a German Jew, a Russian Jew, one Syrian, and a large company of Arabs. There were represented, in this collection of strangers, in this loneliest of places, the four continents. Considerable time was

lost, in the forenoon, by wandering out of the direct route,—it costing us five piastres to pay a Bedouin, whom the sheik hailed at a distance, to put him on the track.

Passed two large flocks of goats and sheep, in the open desert, browsing, as they went, on the tops of sparsely-set shrubs, and managed by a lone Arab female. There was neither kral, house nor hut, to be seen in any direction. When we drew nigh, she squatted down, and drew her ragged veil closely over her dingy face. She had on only a single blue garment, — a loose frock. Saw a singular toad, with a long tail, very rapid in its movements. Had a peep at an owl. Snails, from the size of a pea to those of three quarters of an inch in diameter, abound, adhering to the under side of the thorn-bushes. Empty snail-shells are scattered over the sand everywhere, rolled about by the wind. The Jews in our company informed us they were from Calcutta, where they had been with indigo, which was picked up; in small parcels, in Egypt, as they went on. They both wished to set eyes on the holy city of their fathers, Jerusalem.

Jan. 1, 1851. *Wednesday.* — This is written on the Desert of Arabia, but in what latitude or longitude the deponent sayeth not. This is the first day of a new year; and I am writing this page in a tent, set up in the clean sand, near a brackish fountain of water, known as the Well of Arass, where caravans usually stop for the night, and water their camels. It is the fifth day from Cairo. Several large caravans have been discovered to-day, in different directions, right and left; but, as the exact course is not defined, those crossing the desert, either way, seldom meet near enough to speak. Like ships at sea, they see each other at a distance, but signals have not been adopted for carrying intelligence either way.

A glimpse was had of the extensive mound on which Onias

— a son of the Jewish high priest in the time of Ptolemy Philometer — erected a temple, surrounded by a city, which was called Onion, one hundred and eighty years before Christ. Josephus explains the history of this novel transaction, by which the ambitious priest hoped to draw off the Jews to Egypt; and the king hoped, by giving consent for them to concentrate there, to strengthen his own hands against a subtle enemy, Antiochus.

Soon after leaving another watering locality, we met Mrs. Barton, of Philadelphia, with two other ladies, and a dragoman. They had accidentally been separated from their caravan; and we, having seen the animals but a little while before, at a distance, readily put them on the right direction. This is very dangerous business, to ride off from the main body of the troop, where there are no landmarks, no guides, and nothing to subsist on in case of being lost.

Snails were so very plenty as to be a subject of constant observation. I perceived why all the scanty shrubs are protected by innumerable thorns: it has reference to the protection of those harmless creatures, which must subserve some important purpose in the economy of nature, in these desert regions, which naturalists have not explained.

Passed two great flocks of goats, governed by two Bedouin females, veiled, of course, — for it is a disgrace to show their faces, even to their flock, one might suppose, from the closeness with which their veils are held on. They were alone. Where they came from, or how they could find their home, was a mystery. Not a hut, tree or shelter, to be seen, though the field of vision took in a circle of several miles. Several Bedouin Arabs passed us, — downcast, black-eyed, cut-throat looking fellows, with one exception. We marked one of the band as being a finely-proportioned man, whose salaam was quite imperial. We

encamped with the same caravan, having been in company through the day. Weather charming; warm through the day, with keen, clear air at night.

All the desert fountains seen thus far were from six to ten feet below the hard pan, which is the common land-level. Sand, however, accumulates round them, and constant attention is required to keep it out. When we came to one, the Arabs would get down to it, — there being palm-tree logs thrown in, crosswise, to stand upon.. By bailing out the sand and water together, a while, there was a chance for dipping up a bucket-full of water. A skin, doubled up at the corners, is the usual dipper. Nearly every person in a caravan — certainly all the drivers — has a sheepskin, with the wool on, which serves all imaginable purposes; and with it they can go through the hardships of desert-life with a light heart, — it being the one thing needful, with them, above all others. When running on foot, if there happens to be a cold blast, the skin is suspended from the neck by a string, and, hanging down in front, or over the shoulder, towards the wind, makes them perfectly comfortable. The skin is shifted with each change of wind. When they crawl up on the camel to ride, on the top of the load, the skin is their cushion. When they come to water, an excavation is made in the sand to the dimensions of a good-sized wash-bowl: they go down and dip the skin full, — gathering up the margin to make a bag, — and, setting it in the sand dish, open it; and the camel drinks the precious beverage, as does also his master, without wasting a drop. Next, when the camels are unladen for the night, he spreads out the skin, and presses it into the sand again, puts in meal, pours in water, and makes a batch of dough. After eating his frugal supper, — half coals and ashes, stuck, like Zant currants in a pudding, all over the sheet of hot

bread, — he reposes on the skin for a pillow; but, if he is cold before daylight, it becomes a coverlet.

From what I have seen of the geological structure of the desert, it is almost certain that water might be procured, by boring, anywhere. There is a broad sheet of limestone underlying the sand, perhaps several strata, with sheets of sand between, which have been shattered and broken, so that water, by hydrostatic pressure, is forced up through, to near the surface. The general impression seems to be that all the water that oozes up in the deserts, either side of the Nile, is Nile water, that has percolated, laterally, to all distances. This cannot be the case; because, in the Fayoon, on the Libyan Desert, the water rises and falls, independently of the altitude of the water in the channel of the Nile. My views in respect to the mechanism of the Nile will be expressed hereafter.

At the spring of Albarouck there were supposed to be two hundred camels watering, — a slow process, in the manner already described.

That there must be some force from the weight of a body of water further off, and at a higher level, is inferred from the fact that it rises in this choked-up depression, where the resistance of a column of sand, and the atmospheric pressure combined, is overcome, in rising to the surface.

Jan. 2d. Thursday. — Tedious travelling, rarely exceeding twenty-five miles a day, — rising by light, and breakfasting by a candle. There were some pleasant episodes, notwithstanding the peculiarity of our position, at the mercy of those wild men. Sometimes the sand was fine, then again it was coarse; and the tumuli, of all dimensions, of pure dry sand, — drifted into fantastic as well as symmetrical forms, — served to keep the mind in a state of activity. Our sheik evidently found himself puzzled to know which way to steer,

often, in the course of the day, when no camel-tracks could be discovered. Immense curves were needlessly made, in consequence of having no certain method of keeping on the desert-line. Some of the sand-hills were very beautiful indeed, they were so gracefully moulded, and presented such waving outlines, besides being heaped up to the amazing height of several hundred feet, in many places.

At the west of our course, to-day, apparently six miles distant, there were several enormous sand-hills in view, that were symmetrically pyramidal, and would be taken to be similar to those of Geezeh, did we not know, for a certainty, that no such structures were ever raised here. One of them, particularly, was, to my apprehension, four hundred feet high, and carried to a sharp, well-defined, four-sided apex, similar to the pyramid of Cephrines, the only remaining one in Egypt that retains its original hard plaster covering at the top.

We passed a line of date-trees. Patches of them extended some miles in a ravine, protected by a mighty wall, as it were, of sand, heaped up from twenty to one hundred feet, or more. In some of the clusters were the krals of Bedouins; — an elementary house, made by sticking palm-leaf stalks into the sand, and constructing a frail yard, within which is a chocolate-colored goat's-hair tent-cover, under which the family crawl, for protection and comfort, at night. Where these settlements are, there we see numbers of females, who are as cautious to keep their faces securely covered as the kadines of the Sultan of Turkey. Once only we surprised some small boys and girls at play, who were as timid as gazelles, and fled for dear life at the awful appearance of howadjis.

If the roots of the palms did not reach the sheet of water that lies on the limestone under the sand, they would certainly die. On the banks of the Nile I have repeatedly studied the pecu-

liarity of their structure. Their fibrous roots, the size of drum-cords, are not unfrequently twenty feet in length, going down to the water-level. When a palm is growing on an artificial mound, its roots penetrate down through the whole mass, to the common fountain of their vitality. All the shafts of these trees are shorter than in Egypt, but their diameter is about the same. It was up hill and down to-day, the sand being thrown into all the undulations, depressions, ridges, sharp points and gentle swells, that distinguish the landscape in some of the rural districts of our own dear country, — but bald, not a spear of vegetation being on them. We already discovered that much precious time is completely lost, in traversing this desert, by not knowing the exact direction. If a line of stakes were driven, — after the manner of showing the course of a road, when covered by snow-drifts, — they would be of priceless value. An objection has been raised to them, that they would dam up the sand, or, rather, become the nuclei for great accumulations, by the resistance they would offer. If the sand did collect, so that there was danger of covering them, by pulling them up a foot or two, they would still be in place. If stakes were driven, by a compass, a caravan might reach Jerusalem, Damascus and Aleppo, in two-thirds the time now occupied in puzzling out the way.

All the camels were hampered, cracking their supper of beans and straw, the Arabs busily employed round their scanty fires, baking bread and supper, when Buckheat commenced a narrative of his life, — short, to be sure, for he was but seventeen years of age. He was stolen from Darfour, in Africa, only last season, and brought down the Nile to Cairo, where Hassan, our sheik, bought him for sixty-four dollars of our money. He is a good-natured, obliging, quick-witted, trusty fellow, the right hand of his master. He further said he had

a wife at Cairo, having recently procured her. Hassan and his slave were friends, eating, drinking, sleeping and laboring together.

All the information we gathered from these, or any other Arabs, was through their language, and not our own. Each day we gained a little; and this was the advantage of having no dragoman, and being obliged to speak. There is a natural language of signs, which can never be mistaken, when articulate sounds fail. By a combination of these two, we think we perfectly understood the common suggestions, the answers to our questions, and other generalizations. We certainly held animated conversations, when we had rights to maintain, which were never misunderstood. Praise and blame were readily comprehended, and sometimes both parties had the force of sentiments expressed too keenly. Our usual custom, daily, was to keep our arms in good order. Mr. Warren carried a gun slung at his saddle-pin; I had a horse-pistol, with a percussion lock, excessively admired by Arabs, who have the old flints yet, missing fire half the time. But it was never loaded; and the three balls — all I ever had — were carried in a clothes-bag. However, it appeared well; and lookers-on, no doubt, supposed it loaded half up to the muzzle. In my travelling-bag was an India-rubber bottle, in which I kept a reserved fund of water, unbeknown to any one, to be used in case of emergency.

Whenever we happened to join a caravan, most of the camels had little parcels of the dry fibrous parts of the palm-tree, that grow about the base of the leaf-stalks, — a kind of network of fibres, which nature employs for bracing the long stem. As soon as we encamped, all the old men immediately commenced rolling it into twine, and finally into cordage, making ropes an inch in diameter, of the very strongest kind. It was

curious to watch the rapidity with which an experienced old Arab would manufacture thirty feet of excellent cordage. They would twist three strands at the same time; invariably holding all three at the distal extremity with the great and next toe, slipping it along between the toes, as the twine was twisted into one, as though they were the jaws of a vice. They renew the business and continue the rope daily, while the young men are taking care of the camels and baking bread. All their binding ropes, cords and twine, for their own use, are made on these desert jaunts; and nearly all in Jaffa, Alexandria, &c., for ship use, is thus produced. One man alone, sitting flat down on the sand, will make more than a good workman among us could produce in the same time, in ordinary rope-walks, with the assistance and advantage of a twisting-wheel.

Jan. 3d. Friday. — Frequent showers through the day, with cool nights; towards noon, warm and sunny. A range of sand-hills, running east and west; at the base, facing north, was a ravine; and within, a growth of bushes, with a few palms, and a little brackish water, that created more thirst than it quenched. The ground was uneven; we ascended, occasionally, considerable elevations, where there were knolls still higher, with a sprinkling of low shrubs, around which the sand collects; the plants stretch up, to keep from being overwhelmed, and more sand clusters round the mass, till it is sometimes thus raised into the form of a haycock, ten feet high. The roots become correspondingly long. These, exposed by the force of the wind, soon dry, and resemble large-sized iron wire, — constituting the principal fuel of the desert.

Came in view of the coast of the Mediterranean, sparsely dressed in poor, barren bushes. The sheik turned further inland. Saw two very light-footed gazelles, browsing, — at first supposed to be deer. They trotted off at a gentle speed,

with an air of freedom which nothing else but wild beasts enjoy on these sterile sands. Soon after, saw a rabbit; poor, timid creature, he was commiserated for having his lot cast on this desolate ocean of moving sands. Next, a red fox capered over the clean sand, as though he felt his independence. Then came a box-turtle, four inches long. He made no attempt at escape, but simply drew in his head, and shut up the house. It beguiled away some lonely hours, — while going, jerk, jerk, between the two saddle-pins, — to study this reptile's general structure, and speculate upon its history. Curiosity would sometimes get the better of its judgment; it would gradually force its head out, till the eyes were far enough to see what society it was in, when it would be darted back again in a fright, as much as to say, Who are you? Nature has been forcing a few spires of grass up through the sand, on the route, to-day; the thin, slender stalks have the appearance of grain, just springing up after a shower. Occasionally detected a Bedouin, at a distance, alone, stretching out into the pathless desert, with no other guides than the twinkling stars of the firmament. Tracks of various wild animals were often seen, — one being those of the wild boar. Companies of animals, from the freshness of their foot-prints, appear to have all been going the same way, peaceably, the line of tracks being parallel. They were supposed to have been to a watering-place, to which they go without quarrelling. Bones of camels were strewn everywhere. Were the sands immovable, the route might be kept by following the direction of their carcasses, — from bleached bones to those that broke down no longer ago than yesterday, under the weight of burdens and hunger combined. Some rapacious vultures, of a large size, with bloody beaks, were lounging near a half-destroyed body, on which they had been engorging themselves. We overtook some wayfarers

who had picked up a camel left to die, two or three days before. They nursed and coaxed him into a sturdy, improving beast. Camels are badly treated in caravans. They are often overloaded, which they make known by a disagreeable cry; but they are beaten unmercifully, if they hesitate, or refuse to move. Their saddles are never taken off, when unladen, but kept on the whole time. Even when browsing, a hundred or two together, the saddles are not removed. Fetid ulcers, discharging matter that runs down their sides, rarely call for pity, and never, to my knowledge, for medication. We once called the attention of the sheik to the shocking condition of the back of the camel that carried the water-casks; but he disregarded it, as of no consequence.

The male camels, at certain periods, become ferocious, and absolutely terrific. When the paroxysm is coming on, they puff out a membraneous bladder, covered with froth, and utter horrible noises. Every one springs towards them, with cudgels, instantly, and within a few minutes they become manageable again. One of our six was of this character; and, becoming formidable, he was one day thrown and held down, till the sheik plucked long hairs enough, from the end of his tail, to make a yard of twine, strongly twisted. He then bored the septum of the nostrils, and run it through. To that he tied a cord; and, ever after, when he began to play off his constitutional pranks, a slight twitch on the hair-twine would bring him instantly under subjection. A mad camel — one conscious that his driver stands in fear of him — soon becomes dangerous; and great severity is resorted to, before he is subdued.

Jan. 4th. Saturday. — Nothing remarkable. Passed several droves of brood camels. They are raised, in this horribly lonesome place, under the care of Bedouins, who keep them. Cut bushes when we pitch the tent, and spread the mattress

upon them, to have a little soft repose, — the sand proving too hard and damp, for it has rained. Skeletons of camels, in any quantity. Saw a large pelican, — no way alarmed, — a few strange birds, one gazelle, and some rabbits. Ascertained that nine languages are spoken by five persons who have fallen into our company. I am quite unwell.

El Arish, Jan. 5th. Sunday. — Arrived here late this morning. It is a miserable sand-hill, without a green thing, two miles from the sea, — the last border-town of Egypt. One mile and a half would take us into Palestine. A pasha, or governor, resides here, in one corner of an old fort, which is in a ruinous state, without a gun. Straggling half mud and half stone hovels are plenty outside. Hassan, our sheik, resided here; two of his boys came to our tent. Some informality was represented to have been discovered in our papers. A few cavalry soldiers were prancing about in the sand, — the instruments of Ibrahim Aga, the governor. This El Areesh— usually written El Arish — was the ancient Rinocolura, a place of exile, to which the ancient kings of Egypt sent certain offenders, after maiming them by cutting off their noses. Granite columns, bits of marble, portions of cornices, &c., clearly show this has once been a place of renown. One of the crusading kings died in the fort, but his name is not recollected. A few rods in front of our tent was a handsome sand-hill, some few square rods of it being enclosed by a rope on stakes, within which were three tents. It was the quarantine station, into which every person coming from Syria must enter, and remain five days, — sick or well, — provide for himself and camels, and pay a dear price for *rent* of the ground, and afterwards pass on. Health is no way considered; it is a scheme for raising a revenue out of travellers. An Italian renegado, who palms himself off as a physician, but who knows nothing what-

ever of medicine, as he confessed to me, has charge of it, under Ibrahim Aga. They play into each other's pockets most profitably.

Jan. 6th. — Not allowed to proceed; we therefore requested leave to return instantly. I was seated in our half-open tent, writing, the Mediterranean in sight, and wild men of the desert and official rascals lounging about in their turbans, when this was written. Had a long and tedious interview with the black-hearted old villain, Ibrahim Aga, who was seated cross-legged on a kind of tailor's bench, puffing a long chebouck. Not a word was said oftener than once in a quarter of an hour, upon the average. We discovered that it was contemplated to rob us by a measure that might have all the appearance of a legal act. In short, every one of the governor's minions hoped for a dip into our pockets. The Italian assured us, over and over, that our papers were right; but the governor's son, Hasen Aga, — an evil spirit on earth, — was at the bottom of the scheme, and, therefore, there was no reasonable expectation of advancing, for we were determined not to be obliged to bribe any of them. We had just about money enough to pay for the camels, on arriving at Ramlah; but, if it was diverted to these cut-throats, there would be a difficulty with our sheik, at the end of the journey, as no money could be procured with our letters of credit till we arrived at Jerusalem. Gausep Andreg, the counterfeit doctor, was the tool in their hands, and was the principal medium of communication between us. If the word rascal were written, where it should be, on his forehead, his face would express the true character of his heart. Frequent intimations were given that we might go on by paying a certain sum. We entered a formal protest to the governor, and threatened to complain to Abbas Pasha of his conduct, if he detained us another hour; as, if there was any

further detention, our provisions would fail, and then we must be fed. This evidently alarmed his hateful excellency. As we were in no condition to bribe, we simply asked to return forthwith, which could not be done till he gave the sheik leave to go with us, because we could not return alone. We sympathized with the Jew indigo-merchants who were placed in the same dilemma, and who were treated with the utmost contempt.

Jan. 7th. — We were suffering intensely from anxiety, as the season for travelling, before the annual rains set in, was approaching, and every hour was of consequence. King Baldwin died in this wretched fortress. We again went into the awful presence of the perpetually-smoking pasha. Two young children of his — a boy and girl, by his fortieth wife, perhaps — were brought to the footstool of his sandy throne. The little girl had silver anklets, strung round with silver bells, which made a fine tinkling noise whenever agitated. One of the Jews said that permission had been granted him to leave, by paying fifteen dollars. Without a written permission, it would be a pretext for bringing us back, and fining or imprisoning us, without mercy; or the old cheat might send men to rob us. We saw and heard enough to know that our safety consisted in returning by varying the route. We arrived here on the morning of the fifth; and past noon, on the seventh, Hassan finally got a paper permitting us to return. Thus we were detained two days, for no purpose but a hope that we should hand over a good sum of money; but, that not coming, and the threat to complain of all of them, for detention without cause, being more than expected, the governor, we imagined, would have been glad to have us proceed. But we dared not risk his infernal scheming; and therefore hastened back from whence we came. The Italian came to me for medicine, and

proposed that I should go with him to see a sick person in the tabooed enclosure. This was unquestionably a part of a plot. Had a foot been set over the line, a new aspect would instantly have been given to our affairs; for I should have been made a prisoner, and perhaps heavily fined. All the plans for raising money out of us failed. We joined company with a caravan bound to Cairo with soap, with about thirty Arab owners and drivers. An Arab, on horseback, wearing a long sword, overtook us, a mile or so from El Arish. He was recognized as the same fellow who had been hanging about the tent, demanding backshiesh, because we had travelled over some part of his territory, in the desert. For several hours he followed on, occasionally riding up to the side of my camel, to know if I intended to pay him or not. Being out of all patience, my empty pistol was held out, with an intimation that he would be paid, with a vengeance, if he troubled us any further; upon which he quickly disappeared, for the last time. Being with a caravan serves to strengthen one's courage; for the Bedouins are like wolves, — never attacking without being the strongest party. Very soon a cavalry soldier of the station came up with us; he was the bearer of despatches from the governor to Cairo, relating, it was rumored, particularly to ourselves. The object was to contradict any statement we might be induced to make touching his master's official conduct. When the tent was pitched for the night, and our miserable dinner prepared, he had the impudence to attempt quartering himself on us, as he was a public messenger. He was driven out, with indignation, to the universal joy of the company.

One afternoon, while with this great company of Arabs, after the camp was arranged, and the rope-making had been commenced, I shaved myself. Some of them happened to get a sight of my razor, and the word passed round that I was a

hakem; and, consequently, they all wanted their heads shaved. On my refusing, they said, Why not? you are a doctor. They associated the business of a barber with that of medicine. They then wanted the razor; and the denial rather discomposed some of the young men, who had not had their pates shorn for ten days, and were very anxious for it. They then commenced shaving each others' heads with a short, stump razor, two inches long, with a wooden handle. They had plenty of soap, it being on freight; but they never lather at all. The operation, which has been previously described, was performed with surprising quickness. By means of it they get clear of lice, which forage all over their bodies; but they can get at them anywhere easier than on their own heads. Vermin abound on camels, and thus creep to their riders, and there is no escape from them.

In good time, without accident, we arrived again in the city of Cairo. A note was addressed to the American consul-general, in regard to our loss of time, fatigue, and the expense we had been at, through the ignorance of the Syrian who officiated for the vice-consul; and, in the second place, a complaint was made against the governor, for detention and rude treatment, in not letting us instantly turn back, when he informed us our papers were not legally prepared. We had been taxed one dollar for a certificate saying we were citizens of America, on our arrival at Alexandria, which was of no use whatever, never having been shown till taken out at El Arish, and then it was frowned upon. The consul addressed a note to his vice-consul, who can neither read, write nor speak English, for a report of the manner in which our papers were prepared. He got word of our arrival, and, at ten o'clock at night, when we were in bed, called us up, and pleaded for mercy, saying, if we pressed the matter, it would ruin him. He acknowledged his boy had

done wrong; and one paper in particular, which he furnished, and insisted upon receiving pay for,—namely, a permit to carry arms, but which we refused to purchase,—was a gross attempt at swindling. We remained several days, hoping for the report, to defend ourselves against any false statement, almost certain to come from a Levantine, as the consul happened to be in Cairo. We could remain no longer; satisfied that his safety depended on delay, the vice-consul maintained silence; but, on arriving at Alexandria,—the consul having, in the mean while, arrived,—the vice-consul's report reached us. It was made perfectly plain that the Syrian did exactly right, and that we were detained through our own obstinacy. The whole was a contemptible falsehood,—a lie, from beginning to end; and the representative of the United States treated us with a coldness and cavalier reserve that indicated a determination to sustain his tool at Cairo, let who would be injured, incommoded, insulted, or wronged, by those whose first duty it was to aid, assist and protect them. If our government knew how the United States were represented, and how the citizens were preyed upon by unprincipled men, while travelling in distant countries, a revolution would soon be brought about in the consular department. Because we remonstrated against the unrighteous report of the supple, deceitful knave at Cairo, we have been hearing unfavorable remarks ever since, used to prejudice other travellers, who might at any time fall in our way; while they also serve as an argument to persuade new comers to pay for what may not be needed. The money extorted in this way amounts to a comfortable sum, in addition to the official's salary of three thousand dollars per annum.

THE NILE.

This mysterious river bears a very strong resemblance to the Mississippi. It is equally rapid and turbid, in consequence of holding an immense amount of unctuous mud in solution. Although there are a few short curves, most of them are graceful sweeps, allowing an extended field of vision, up and down the stream, for a considerable distance. In the course of some thousands of years, it has repeatedly shifted its bed; and is perpetually wearing into the land, one side or the other, although the process is slower than in the great rivers of the United States. From the foot of the first cataract to the Mediterranean, — not far from eight hundred miles, — it falls three hundred feet, or at the rate of about five inches to the mile. Where the fall is but three inches to the mile, it is a swift stream to row against; but at five inches, a strong wind is required, to stem the current. All the Nile boats are constructed to draw a light draft, with one enormously large triangular sail, rigged to the top of a short, stout mast, near the bow. Some have two sails. No one knows where the water comes from, its origin having never been explored, notwithstanding the confident manner in which it is asserted that the Nile takes its rise in the Mountains of the Moon. Those mountains are very probably in the locality assigned to them, — the moon, — since no traveller on earth has seen them in a satisfactory way to determine a question so long mooted. It is a solitary river, without a single tributary stream, of any kind whatever, at a high point in Africa. It continues its course to the distance of not more than a dozen miles below Cairo, when it bifurcates into two branches, the Rosetta and Damietta, emptying into the sea. All Egypt may be said to depend on the Nile for water, for all purposes. There are

brackish springs on some parts of the deserts, where water, in small quantities, may be procured; but the general impression is that it all comes from the Nile, and, in a depression of the Libyan desert, is supplied from the same source. All animal and vegetable life is dependent on the Nile, therefore, throughout this singularly-marked country. It annually overflows its banks, and floods the country, back to the natural barriers that restrain its waters to positive limits, leaving, on its subsidence, a vast amount of slimy mud, on which the fertility of the land entirely depends. Professor Ehrenberg, of the University of Berlin, who is soon expecting to publish a work on the subject, informed me that he had discovered that the deposit was not mud,—the common idea,—but actually, the largest part of it, infusorial insects; in a word, the land-dressing is animal matter. This gives a new interest to investigations in regard to the general functions of the river, and the origin of such an amount of minute animal organizations. Thousands of people, of both sexes, are incessantly employed in raising water, for domestic purposes, and for irrigating the land.

From the terminus, to unknown regions from whence it flows, there is one single stream, lying nearly in the centre of a rich alluvial meadow,—averaging eight miles, apparently, in width, —bounded by two parallel mountain-ridges, extending nearly north and south, from the lower part of Egypt, towards the sea, to the interior of Africa. Behind these elevations, are two vast deserts of fine, dry sand,—the eastern being the Arabian, and the western the Libyan. On approaching the first cataract, the arable land becomes much narrower, being wholly on one side for a considerable distance, and then upon the other. From the fact of the uncertain and irregular encroachments of the river upon its banks, the land is unstable, having all been deposited by the river, and being constantly removed

by it from one position, to be transported elsewhere. There is rarely any rain, in Upper Egypt, of sufficient duration to exert much influence on the Nile. As low down as Alexandria, there is a season for showers, and occasional heavy rains; but they make no perceptible addition to the volume of the water. There is no way for the water to escape from its bed, otherwise than by evaporation, because its level is below the natural walls, which were intended, by the omnipotent contriver of this extraordinary hydraulic apparatus, to restrain the floods to prescribed limits, at the periodical rise. These natural walls are regular horizontal layers of limestone, appearing, at the distance of a few rods, to be Cyclopæan masonry. The regularity of the strata shows they were formed at the bottom of a primitive ocean, in a perfect state of repose. Afterwards, they were gradually raised to their present position, no subterranean force having tilted them from their original place. In the bends and angles formed by the uninterrupted beating of the waters are spots for agricultural purposes. On these narrow strips of land were the earliest seats of civilization.

After a patient exploration of this mysterious river, — observing its width, depth, and momentum, above Syene, with its velocity, volume, and other physical circumstances, three hundred miles below, independent of the magnitude and power above the bifurcation into the Damietta and Rosetta branches, — I am convinced that the water of the lower Nile does not all flow in the narrow, shallow bed of the Upper Nile, nor come over the first cataract. By the annual rise and fall, the quality of the land is improved, as there is a re-deposit of the material sustenance of plants. By this annual flood, the whole valley of the Nile has been gradually rising, by deposits spread uniformly over the surface. This explains the appearance of pottery, brick, stone, and other remains of ancient art, protruding

through the banks, many feet below the common land-level. By the never-ceasing activity of this river, the sites of ancient towns have been swept away, and foundations laid for new ones, in every age of the world's history; and, through the agency of it, the remains of primitive art, in all departments of life, are, probably, strewn extensively over the territories of the successors of the Pharaohs, where they are hermetically sealed up from vulgar inspection, to be brought up, in some future period, to illustrate, more fully than it has yet been done, the genius, mechanical ingenuity, and taste of the first races who figured on the oldest and most curious of all inhabited countries on the globe. The old beds of the river, and the revelations in reserve, — which the sand has been securing for after ages, — will constitute a grand and startling episode in the world's history, for the study and contemplation of coming generations. Where does the water come from, in the Nile, if it does not follow the common open channel? It is my opinion that the tributaries of the Nile, like the subterranean rivers of Kentucky and Tennessee, course through channels under the limestone bed on which the sands of the deserts rest. Possibly they have drilled passages through the soft magnesian limestone, draining enormous sections of country, where the annual quantity of rain, distributed at specific intervals of time, could not all be evaporated; but, percolating through the arid covering of the seamed and fractured stratum of rocks below, finds its way through the underground crevices, and gradually collects into rivulets, which creep out from under the margin of the Arabian and Libyan deserts, and thus unite with the Nile, one of the gigantic common sewers of the African continent. In the Fyoom and the Oases, on the Libyan side, there are springs, and an occasional rise of the water, wholly independent of any probable connection with the river. When it is low Nile,

without any assignable cause understood by the inhabitants, the water suddenly increases above its ordinary level; and, as frequently as otherwise, it falls below the height of the water at high Nile, — showing that there can be no possible connection. Then, again, in the little Oasis, are the warm springs of Bowitti and El Kasr, having a temperature of ninety-three and a half degrees Fahrenheit; but no philosopher in his senses would pretend that hot water comes from the Nile! It strikes me that these phenomena, in regard to the water rising in the desert, are to be explained thus: When heavy rains have occurred, remote from the Abyssinian Nile, the surplus water is carried off by the concealed channels spread out variously under the limestone, coursing over an argillaceous bed, wending its way, finally, into the Lower Nile, at numerous points, while some of the conduits have their mouths opening into the Mediterranean. Under ordinary circumstances, the water flows on quietly; but in case of the sudden fall of rains, the waters are not liberated, at the distal extremities of the tubes, fast enough to prevent a prodigious pressure of the column above, which forces it out at the leakages, — sections of country where the weight of earth has been removed; or, in other words, the pipes are thinner, and therefore offer less resistance. It is there the rise takes place; but, when the rains subside, — the pressure being removed, — the extra accumulation, a miniature flood, gradually drains off, and finds an exit further onward.

One has only to see the places in the Arabian Desert which are denominated watering-stations, — many of which are believed to be considerably higher than the Nile, — to be convinced that the water in them is from another source. Its very brackish character indicates, too, another origin; for, when the soil, or sand, is thoroughly mixed with pure Nile water, no such property is imparted to it; and hence the conclusion is, that the salts in

solution, giving the desert water its unpalatable properties, are imparted to it in a distant and more southern region.

With these views of the geological structure of the country, the expectation is entertained that the period will arrive, in the progress of events, when many of those unsuspected aqueducts that ramify under the mighty oceans of shifting sands will be penetrated with augers, and fountains of sparkling water will gush up to the surface, to fertilize and prepare those frightful wastes for the residence of another and superior race of men to

ORNAMENTED BLACK VEILS.

the nomads who are now roaming over them, poised upon the hump of the patient camel, guided in their endless wanderings alone by the twinkling stars.

One of the first novelties, on sailing up the Nile, is the mul-

titudes of females transporting water, on their heads, in large, heavy earthen jars, from morning till night, to the huts and villages. They are generally slender, muscular, finely formed, and remarkably straight in their figures. Spinal diseases are unknown to them; nor have they to contend with any of those peculiar diseases that undermine the constitutions of young women in our own country. They are usually barefooted, and wear but a single garment, — a coarse blue cotton frock, with bag sleeves, split down pretty low in front, open, exposing the chest; but they are extremely cautious to conceal their faces with a rag of a shawl, a piece of cotton, — a remnant, perhaps, of their dress, — or with a regularly fashioned veil of the country, suspended from the forehead by a brass contrivance of short ferrules, or a simple cord.

Asses, in the cities, are uninterruptedly carrying water, in the skins of animals, taken off whole; and camels, laden with capacious leather bags, and men, weighed down by skins slung over their shoulders, pursue water-carrying as a distinct employment.

It is a subject of surprise that no easier method for raising water from the river has been invented than the abominably uncouth wheel, — usually turned by an ox, — having a rope running over, on which earthen pots, with wide, open mouths, are strung, which come up, on one side, full, pour out their contents into a trough, in passing over the periphery, and pass down, on the opposite side, empty. A simple pump is rarely seen in Egypt; and yet, for all purposes, it would be immensely superior, more economical, and far less laborious, than the shadoof (well-pole), or sakkia, or the ox-wheel.

In order to give the fields two or three miles from the river the advantages of irrigation, — without which nothing would grow, — deep canals are cut, miles in length, terminating, in

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some places, in artificial basins of many acres, surrounded by a strong mud embankment, for retaining the water. When the periodical rains in Abyssinia set in, and the river rises, overflowing its banks, the sluices are opened, and the canals and reservoirs are filled and secured for future use. This scheme has been practised since the land was first inhabited. Without this annual supply, all cultivation would cease, and a famine assuredly follow.

DRINKING-WATER CARRIER.

LAND-TENURE AND AGRICULTURE.

The land in Egypt is wholly and exclusively the property of the pasha: he takes and gives according to his individual pleasure, and there is no redress whatever. When Mohammed Ali became the master of Egypt, he took the whole into his own private keeping; but made a faint show of justice, by giving a

pension, for life, to the proprietors of certain parcels. Both himself and the present viceroy, his grandson, have made an occasional present of tracts of land, with villages attached, to their favorites, which will always remain the property of the person to whom it was given, and his successors, unless the succeeding ruler should fancy it for himself, or choose to confer it on another. Under such circumstances, there can be no legal redress, because the viceroy's will is the law, nor is he accountable to his subjects for any act. His agents and sub-agents, in the various districts, portion out the land among the fellahs, or farmers, according to their ability to pay the rent, which averages two dollars a feddan — a trifle less than an acre — per annum. Then there are direct taxes on the land, varying according to the caprice of the government, aggravated and made more oppressive by the higher officers of the pachalic, who so make their assessments as to provide for themselves at the time they are collecting for their master at Cairo. If the farmer has no seed, nor money to purchase it, the government advances it, takes half the crop, requires interest on the unrighteous price charged for it, and forbids the sale of what remains to the cultivator to any one but the government, at its own price. The farmers of a village belong to the neighboring lands; nor are they permitted to go and come freely, or remove to another town. Where they happen to be, there they are compelled to remain. Boatmen, travelling merchants, and some kinds of mechanics, are an exception. Their lives are lives of hardship, insecurity and oppression. Some of them wander off, and, not unfrequently, seek employment in the cities; but, if laborers are scarce, or not proportioned to the ground, in the region from whence they absconded, they are conveyed back, pinioned, and, besides, are not permitted to escape a cruel beating.

By the shifting of the lands nearest to the river, the government, which owns the whole, loses nothing in territory; whereas, were the fields private property, and bought and sold, as in the United States, the owner of this year might not have a yard square the next; while his opposite neighbor, irrigating a mere strip, like a ribbon, might wake up, on the subsidence of the flood, and find himself the possessor of many broad acres, where there were none before. This characteristic restlessness of old Nilus has been painfully destructive to settlements on its banks. All the lands fit for cultivation, in Lower Egypt, are continually yielding crops, except at high water. A field is no sooner harvested, than it is again sown. The ploughing, which is light, and by a plough of the rudest form, has been previously described. No hoeing is required. Successful farming consists in unceasing irrigation; and, for that purpose, both sides of the river are lined with shadoofs and sakkias. The water is conducted by mud spouts, or trenches, to each fibre of the growing produce. The heavy hoe, before alluded to, is the principal agricultural tool within the reach of the farmer. A shovel was not seen beyond the public works. Instead of being dry and mellow, the field is such that the laborer stands in a soft, slimy mud, up to his ankles. Indian corn and millet are universally raised, sown in rows, thick as the stalks can stand. Castor-beans, tares and sugar-cane, — planted in the same manner, — are the prominent crops in Upper Egypt. Wheat, barley, and some other grains, are also extensively cultivated. It is almost certain that the system of cultivation is precisely what it was some thousands of years ago, in the whole valley. They raised cotton then, as at present; the evidence is beyond all contradiction, in the millions of yards of cotton cloth consumed in mummefying the dead; and the agricultural instruments have not been materially changed. In

one of the royal tombs of Thebes, extending into the solid rock four hundred and five feet, in which was the body of Rameses III., who ascended the throne one thousand two hundred and thirty-five years before our era, I examined the painting of a plough, which is precisely like those now in every-day use. I have seen a poor, destitute, nearly naked fellah, harrowing in grain, by dragging a small log to and fro, over the ground, by a bit of rope passing over his shoulder. Camels, cows, asses and men, are employed in ploughing. The farmer uses no whip, but carries a staff from ten to fifteen feet long, armed at one end with a sharp iron spur, and having at the other a rough iron chisel, with a socket, to fasten it on. With one he pricks the animals, to urge them on; and with the other clears the coulter of mud, weeds, or whatever may obstruct the free movement of the plough. It is surprising how well they furrow the field with their miserable machine; the cut is but a few inches deep, but well turned. Grain being strewn, the plough follows, to cover it; or, when sown in rows, a furrow is turned over the seeds. Field hands are literally naked, with the exception of a scanty piece of cloth round the loins, and a dirty, close-fitting cap, to protect their shorn skulls from the intensity of the sun. There are tracts of land entirely broken up by the hoe, where a gang of a dozen men, keeping side by side, work back and forward, across the field. Their attitude is precisely that of the ancient Egyptians represented in the agricultural scenes in the tomb discovered by Bruce, the traveller. Their legs are long, bodies short, head small, the skin of a light copper color, approximated, by the old artists, by a brick-colored paint. When making pedestrian excursions to ruins, both in Upper and Lower Egypt, very many were passed, engaged in their daily farming pursuits; and it was my custom to watch the process of using the hoe, mark their best

position, and compare them, their tools, and their doings, with copies of the ancient delineations. The Arabs, whose ancestors conquered the country, were necessarily obliged to copy the agricultural customs of those whom they found in possession. The system of irrigation is now just what it always has been; and the ploughing, watering, digging, harvesting, shape and use of the only two reliable tools in their possession, are presumed never to have materially changed, from the reign of Menes, the first monarch, to the subjugation of Egypt by Mohammed Ali.

Green Indian corn, millet, — resembling broom-corn, the grains being in tufts, at the top of the stalk, — garden vegetables, melons, fresh clover, and many other things, which are annual productions of the soil in the temperate zones, are on sale, the year round, in Egypt, in places remote from the large towns, at prices ridiculously cheap.

The climate is so bland that, even in the winter season, — which is characterized particularly by cold nights, and an occasional cutting west wind, — children of both sexes go nude as Roman statues, in the mud-villages, and most out-of-the-way places.

MECHANIC ARTS.

There is no native constructiveness in the present races who occupy Egypt. All the mechanic arts are in a melancholy state of rudeness, without any indications of improvement, notwithstanding the specimens of other countries constantly before them. They squat on the ground, cross-legged, to pursue any mechanical business. I have seen boat-builders, at Syene, sitting in the sand, hewing a stick of timber, planing boards, boring with an auger, making a door, shaving a mast or spar, &c. Blacksmiths sit also by the side of an anvil, hammering a

heavy bar of iron, making horse-shoes, and manufacturing nails, hooks, kettle-bails, and, indeed, all common blacksmithing. Nothing is more common in Cairo than to see large numbers of stout, muscular men, seated on the lap of mother earth, at a turning-lathe, which is not raised more than six inches from their own level, turning; this is effected with a long bow, drawn back and forward with the right hand, while the chisel is held by the handle in the left, but guided on the rest by being grasped between the great and second toe. They are almost as expert as monkeys with their feet. Tinmen sit in the same manner; coppersmiths, too, who are employed by hundreds in the cities,—for copper culinary vessels are in universal use,—all take the ground level. Weavers sink a hole in the floor of their shops, to place the treadles, the only way they can be moved while sitting on the floor. Coopers are obliged to stand, unquestionably against their will; but the staves are all put into shape while they are in their favorite position. All the bakers' ovens are on the same plane with the shop floor. In order to get at the mouth without lying flat down, they, too, like the weavers, have a hole to step into. In short, nobody stands, in Egypt, but slaves and servants. Gentlemen have no use for legs, whatever, otherwise than to fasten spurs to, when on horseback. They are altogether a superfluity for mechanics, as the history of their manipulations clearly shows. It is the country, of all others, to which one-legged and no-legged people should emigrate.

Pipe-making is a leading manufacturing interest in all smoking countries; consequently, in Egypt, where life is frittered away in puffing at a nargehleh, or long pipe, from infancy to extreme old age, it has become an essential branch of profitable business. Brick-making is another department of domestic economy, conducted in the most primitive and awkward man-

ner. Females are very frequently engaged in the manufacture, sometimes alone, but more commonly with some of their male relatives. The common tenacious earth or mud, near a dike, is kneaded with fine straw, with the hands, and pressed into a rough wooden mould, one only being made at a time; and they are then placed in rows to dry. Very many are simply patted into a brick form, and, like the others, are sun-dried; but, for ordinary purposes of village house-building, walls, &c., they are not burned. When laid, a thin solution of mud only is required to stick them together. Females not unfrequently build a hut in this way, very speedily. The roof is flat, and fabricated by laying millet-stalks across, from one side to the other, with limbs of the acacia-tree, and other kinds of sticks, strewn over with straw, and finished off with a layer of mud. Pigeon-houses, even to two stories high, are built in the same manner. Mud, to the modern Egyptians, is an indispensable necessary. Their houses, floors, grain-bins, ovens, eccaleobians, dove-cotes, sakkaies, divans, &c., are all, to an extraordinary extent, formed out of this plastic mud. They use it, too, for washing their persons, as we do soap.

A relation of all the comical and *outré* mechanical contrivances that are met with in passing through the streets, and the absurd processes tenaciously practised in manufacturing domestic conveniences, would require many pages.

At the sugar-works, owned by the sons of Ibrahim Pasha, on the west side of the Upper Nile, the machinery is of the very first quality; but it was manufactured in Paris, and is wholly controlled by French engineers. At the barrage, or great bridge, — that has been sluggishly advancing ever since Abbas Pasha commenced reigning, — the great diving-bell, capable of holding sixty laborers at once, the derricks, boats and tools, of the first quality, are also from France, and placed under the

especial charge of French and English engineers and masons; still, the natives take no hints from these improved and admirable labor-saving machines, nor attempt improvements of any kind.

Boat-building, as before remarked, is better conducted than any other of their mechanical employments. From Atfeh, at the head of Mahmoodēēh Canal, to Assuan, boats may be seen, every seventy or a hundred miles, on the stocks, in different stages of progress, from laying the keel till ready for launching. Native timber is extremely scarce. No wood suitable for planks ten feet long could be found. From the north of Europe the government obtain whatever is required to keep the navy in trim; but most of the craft afloat on the Nile is the product of the country, by native artisans. The keel and a few long ribs may be of foreign growth. Long planks, which serve as a bridge to land upon, from the deck, also come from abroad. The crooked limbs of the tamarask and acacia are their only timber, in Upper Egypt. The limbs are fitted in between the ribs, till they constitute, in some boats, a solid wooden wall. The trunks of these trees — of the usual size of apple-trees, rarely a foot in diameter — are split into short plank, when no others are procurable, and nailed on. Each spike-head is wound with tow, and sunk below the common level, so as to have no resisting surface. The tow makes a tight joint. It is quite incredible what large and strong boats are thus produced, from pieces of a few inches in diameter by three feet in length.

RIVER COMMERCE.

From immemorial time the Nile has been the only outlet to the sea from that part of Africa from whence it flows. It was no part of my inquiry to ascertain how many tons of merchan-

dise, bushels of grain, or the number of dates and slaves were annually brought from above, or how many boats ascended with merchandise. The river is the public highway, and boats are incessantly going and coming. Some are of great capacity, and none of them move far without transporting something. Nearly six months, in succession, the wind blows from the north; and, towards spring, it changes, and comes pretty uniformly from the south. With the autumnal breeze travellers commence their explorations, after the intense heat of summer has passed. They could not bear the climate, exposed to the scorching action of the sun. Grain is usually carried in bulk. Where straw is taken, two boats are lashed together, for the purpose of a broad base, not easily capsized. The straw is piled very high, and secured by a rope-netting, — it being broken into short bits, by being trodden upon by cattle, in threshing out the grain.

There are from four to twelve sailors, besides the reis or captain, and cook, to a boat. Ours had twelve, all told. The reis is usually a partial owner. The average pay of a hand is two piastres, or ten cents, a day. A pilot is an important personage, who is familiar with the channel, the projecting mud-bars, the swift-running currents in straits, &c., who is devoted to the helm, — seeming to sleep but little when the wind is favorable. He has the wages of a man and a half, or fifteen cents a day. The ordinary monthly compensation would not vary essentially from three dollars. At night, they lay by the bank, unless there is some one on board sufficiently interested in the property or passage to hurry and urge the reis to keep on while the breeze holds. Their food is, principally, a coarse black bread, made of millet-meal and poor flour, baked in small loaves the size of a coffee-cup. Soon after it comes on board, fresh from the oven, it is sliced up into thin pieces, and spread to dry, and it

speedily becomes hard as brick. Meals are served twice a day. The cook takes a sufficient quantity of the bread, puts it soaking in hot water, and, when softened, boils it with peas; and, when they are dissolved, and smoking hot, the mush is poured into a wooden bowl, if they have one, — otherwise, retained in the kettle. They have neither knives, forks, spoons nor chopsticks. If there is one of the wooden spoons, common to the country, either the cook or reis takes possession of it for the time being. Seated round the mess, flat on deck, — the reis and all, — each plunges his fingers into the hot hodge-podge, and dips out what he can. When procurable, at stopping-places, onions are bought by individuals, according to their ability, to eat with bread. Turnips and radishes are eaten with a gusto, when they have them. They are excessively fond of them. Their meal is washed down with water that often looks as though it had been dipped from a cart-rut in a bog. Some have a filtering-pot; but that is a luxury which all cannot indulge in. Once a day, — in the morning, — the reis has a cup of coffee, thick as tar, and black as his own beard, without sugar or milk, in a homœopathic quantity, — for half the shell of a hen's egg is about equal to the capacity of an Egyptian coffee-cup. Each seaman makes it a point to have a little bag of an ounce or two of coffee, of his own, which he mixes whenever he likes. All coffee in the shops is pounded, in iron mortars, to an impalpable powder; and the art of coffee-making, in the East, consists in boiling it till it becomes thick, and swallowing it all before it has time to settle. Meat is never had among them, unless presented by a passenger, as backshiesh. They are ravenously fond of it. I have seen them devour every part of a sheep, even to the intestines, and then trim off the ragged parts of the skin, and pull the wool off, and eat them

also. On board, they always grind their coffee with a long, heavy club, endwise.

The officer and his men eat, chat, smoke and sleep together. Some of them have a straw mat, but not always. Stretching out at night in their bornouse, — a coarse, loose frock, with sleeves,— a watch being set, they sleep in the open air, and dream of sweet home in a mud hovel, in which they may have from one to four wives, with rings in their noses, a tattooed under-lip, red finger-nails, dyed with henna, and fleas enough to destroy an elephant in one night.

FINE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE.

No attempts are made, in Egypt, to picture anything on earth, above the heavens, or beneath the waters. In the first place, no orthodox Mussulman would dare to do what the Koran strictly forbids. Neither painting nor sculpture, even of the rudest conception, have ever been noticed by me, which were the work of the Arabs. I do not remember to have seen a school-boy draw the outline of a horse, picture a bird, or amuse himself by sketching human beings, — a common pastime with Christian children. They either have no development of the organ of imitation, or they are restrained from exercising it, through fear.

All the mosques are of one uniform pattern, varying only in size. The minarets are of a fixed, nearly unalterable pattern. In cities, they are tolerably well-constructed, but mostly out of old materials. Both the brick, stone and pillars, may have lain in mortar forty times before. With all the beautiful specimens of architecture before them, which have given rise to whatever is grand in the public edifices of Europe and America, they have never been influenced, a single iota, by the contemplation of them. The best of private dwellings are poor,

comparatively, — the second story ordinarily jutting out beyond the lower one. Some of the narrow streets are quite dark, even in broad day, in consequence of houses on the sides nearly meeting at the top. Palaces, and the best class of dwellings, — occupied by the pasha and the great officers of government, — are generally the workmanship of English, French or German artificers. A new palace is nearly completed at the northwest of Cairo, beyond the wall, which has the pleasant aspect of a neat three-story private dwelling-house in the country. Of the interior finish of that particular class of residences, I have nothing to relate, having had no opportunity to examine them.

Sailing by the small palace on the island of Rhoda, one day, the light struck favorably, and we could see a woman looking through at us, attracted, perhaps, by our *Ingleese* costume. Whoever wears a hat is, of course, from England or France, — the kingdoms with which they are most familiar.

Whatever is built speedily becomes ruinous, and falls to pieces. All the mosques of Cairo are shabby, cracked in the walls, doors out of plumb, or windows askew, if of their own fabrication. Europeans are the master-workmen in all the new edifices, and especially in the great mosque of Mohammed Ali; indeed, everywhere, when elegance and luxury are sought. When a generation dies off, the structures they have reared die also. Houses in which princes lived tumble down, when they are not there to take care of them. Even the tombs of the Mameluke kings — intended to be lasting monuments of the majesty and resources of those whose mortal remains were to repose in them — are rickety, dilapidated, and fast disappearing. Their attempts at painting the walls of some structures, next the street, are barbarous. A favorite color is a dingy red, daubed on with an oven broom; and the nearer it looks like a

chess-board, the better. It is a rarity to meet with a thoroughly-built mosque in Egypt. Their appearance is fine at a distance, with their tall, slender minarets, painted, but more commonly whitewashed. Taken collectively, they are dropping away; and might disappear entirely, were they not sometimes repaired.

AMUSEMENTS.

Music is one of these, if the horrible din they make with tambourines, cymbals, and drums (made by stretching a skin over the head of an earthen pot), can be so called. Writers have dwelt, with some degree of pleasure, on their national airs. These have no more existence, on the Nile, than the fine arts. Of all the abominable strains imaginable, from a blast in a conch-shell to the braying of an ass, Arabic melody is, to me, the most intolerable. The ears of other travellers have been more easily gratified than mine, if they have derived gratification from their singing or instrumental performances. The sailors sing in cadence, and the dancing girls perform to strains that would frighten a stage-horse; but the monotony of their favorite airs, and interminable repetition of a jingle of words, is positively shocking. Unlike Christian sailors, the oarsmen never indulge in obscene sentiments: their songs are a melancholy howl, of a religious expression, with very little variation. When very much elated with some unlooked-for success in the form of backshiesh, they have an extemporaneous song for the express occasion. The first rower leads off with a line, manufactured instantly, and the others bawl out the same, as a chorus. Thus Alick, the best of our crew, would yell,

"O, where is the fair girl with a ring in her nose?"

Eight stout fellows, not one of them with a note of music in his voice, would shout together,

"O, where is the fair girl with a ring in her nose?"

Alick would take breath, while his companions were exploding, and, at the last sound, would construct another line:

"If I had flowers of gold, I'd put them in her hand."

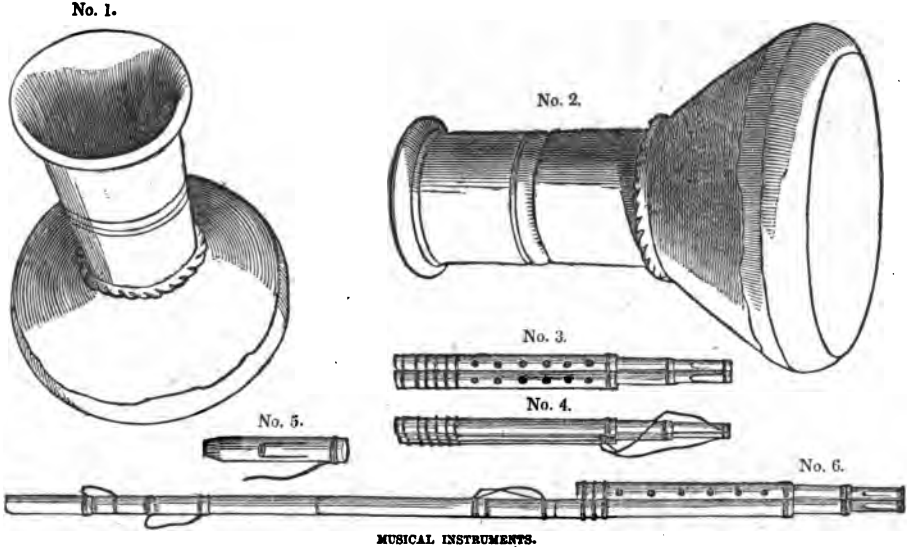
All at once they would commence again the first stanza:

"O, where is the fair girl with a ring in her nose?"

and repeat it by the hour together. This translation is far from being elegant, but it was the best to be had, at the time, from the dragoman. To a poor, half-clad boatman, whose imagination is as active as a pasha's, and who has never seen anything more captivating, as an auxiliary to Nubian female charms, than a brass hoop in the right wing of the nose, a song of this character awakens exhilarating emotions quite incomprehensible to gentlemen who think a nose without a ring is preferable.

As we stepped into the boat, above the first cataract, to be conveyed to the ruins on the island of Philæ, the crew appeared particularly delighted at securing the job, which several boats were trying to obtain. One of them raised the American flag, we had brought, on a pole at the stern; but the stripes struck him as something new; and, being told that it was the sand-jack of the nation to which we belonged, in the New World, he commenced an extemporaneous song, that did not create much enthusiasm, for the reason that he had had no backshiesh.

One beautiful moonlight evening, when the reis was puffing some of his longest whiffs, and myself and companions were seated on the canteen, contemplating the strangeness of our position on the mysterious Nile, and glimpses were now and then had of mud habitations in one direction, and colossal ruins of dwellings reared for the gods, in others, and all hands



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

1 and 2, Earthen Darabukkeh. 3 and 4, Zummarah. 5, Mouth-piece of the latter. 6, Arghool.

were quietly tugging at the oar, the leader commenced singing, in one bar,

"Pray to Mohammed, pray to Mohammed;"

which the rest swelled into an awful peal of human noise, as the words died away upon the thick lips of Alick. An American on board, who makes no pretensions to skill in poetical efforts, gave the sentiment the following form:

"The kanjia glides so freely down the pleasant stream,
It 's like a houri's vision, in a summer dream;
And those who would enjoy it, all beautiful and bright,
Should bow their heads to Mecca, our source of hope and light.
Then kneel to Mohammed, our Mussulman crew,
And pray for soft breezes and light-falling dew;
May the smiles of the Prophet, the glory of day,
Be the bounty of him who in meekness shall pray!

"The crescent is waving on the banner so high,
While the mosque, with its minarets, points to the sky;
'T is the paradise where all the faithful shall rest;
Then pray to Mohammed; O pray to be blest!"

Frequently, when I have been strolling in the great square, in front of the citadel, in Cairo, I have witnessed the performance of musicians on the zummarah, and an analogous wind instrument. They are awfully harsh, without a single redeeming note. A tambourine is the universal accompaniment to all music, and even to singing, without music. A performer will sing by the half-hour together, shaking and rattling the semi-bells, as though he depended upon it to knock the sentiments he was uttering into the stupid noddles of his auditors. Earthen pot drums are in repute throughout Egypt, by all the lower classes. A perpetual thump, thump, is heard in some part of every village. Marriages, feasts of circumcision, and glorifica-

tions of all descriptions, are heightened with a darabukker. Near my lodgings in Cairo, a few rods from the public treasury, one of those tom-toms was a source of vexation, from apparently never being at rest. Every one can perform upon it, whether he has music in his soul or not; and, what is quite remarkable, it is such a general favorite, that the thump upon the elastic head by any fist proves equally exciting, and those who have leisure to listen simultaneously commence beating time, by clapping their hands synchronously. It is for sale in various places, to meet this universal demand, where it would otherwise be quite out of place; upon the same principle that all orders of shop-keepers keep quack medicines, in the United States, because we are a quack medicine taking people. Whole stands are occupied by pedlers, in the streets and highways, with nothing but these drums, of various sizes, finish and cost, down to petite darabukkehs, not larger than an alderman's thumb, for children. The national taste, therefore, is formed in childhood, and remains predominant in after life. All boats have these drums on board, where they can be afforded; and, in passing on the river, the crews strike up an awful noise of voice and tom-tom combined. Our crew up the river petitioned for one most earnestly, and the case was pleaded in their behalf by Hassan, who said, among other arguments adduced in support of their claim, "dat all gentlemen give um one. Den, when de wind is good, dey feel good, too, and make sing; very nice, indeed, — tibe." So we were persuaded, and purchased one, which, before the expiration of ten days, we wished in the bottom of the Dead Sea.

Wherever I have seen the dancing girls, they were invariably accompanied by an old man, and sometimes two, performers on the kemenger, besides a tambourine player.

In coffee-shops, in tents, about the neighborhood of the Frank

street, in Cairo, a náy player may be heard occasionally. Without attempting a detail of the minute finish of this instru-

ment, we assure the reader that it looks much like a flute, and gives out a soft sound, by blowing in at the end, at an angle with the mouth. In the mosques of the whirling dervishes it is presumed to be common, its sound being always recognized in the noise that is raised while they are spinning round the floor. I heard the same instrument played for the dervishes at Pera, in Constantinople, and, for the first time, there was a slight degree of melody in the sound.

Dancing Girls.—They are called Ghawázee, in the language of the country. Some are quite tall, and others are remarkably short. They bear a striking resemblance to the gypsies I have seen in England. Several whom I saw perform in Upper Egypt bore a striking likeness to Malays. Their dress was of a light material; thin, too,—scarcely concealing their persons. Of all the common people seen, they were

decidedly the best looking. Theoretically, they were driven, in 1834, from Cairo, on account of the looseness of their morals, into exile, up the river; but they are numerous there, yet, and perform, by special request, at houses where there is no danger of calling down the offended majesty of the law. Italian women, and, perhaps, some of the native females, derive some gain by keeping apartments for them. Wherever a town is reconnoitred, in the poorest, shabbiest huts, on the outskirts, they have their homes. Different from all other females, their faces are never covered; their dress is of a light rose-color, a delicate yellow, or an equally soft blue. Their foreheads are frequently covered by pieces of Turkish gold coin, suspended in strings, one below another. They are stockingless, but wear red morocco shoes, stiff and hard. They come down to the bank, near where the traveller's boat is moored, and dance with might and main, unsolicited, with a hope of backshiesh. Their belts are strung with trinkets, such as small silver triangles, or little bells; and all have metallic castanets in each hand. Stripping off their shoes, when the music begins, their hips suddenly rise up, their bodies sway either way, their toes cramp into the sand, or to the floor,—wherever they happen to be,—while their countenances assume an earnestness of expression; the furor increases, the features become impassioned, the castanets click, and thus they pass from one degree of excitement to another, till, quite exhausted with the intense action of every muscle in their frames, the exhibition closes, with a round of applause. Viewed in the most indulgent manner, their performances are grossly indecent. In some towns I have seen them sitting in the bazaars, dressed in their peculiar style, and in front of barbers' shops, where stranger Arabs go, to get their heads shaven. From very early life they are trained to the profession.

Returning late, on a certain evening, to the boat, from an excursion to Thebes, we found a very old man playing the kemengeh, while a pretty little girl, not more than eight or ten years of age, dressed out in the true Ghawazee costume, rattles and castanets, was performing with characteristic lascivious gesticulation. Such is the fascination of these extremely gross shows, that they are frequently hired to amuse the ladies in

DANCING GIRLS.

harems; but a method of economizing is to have the dance in the court, where the men can enjoy the entertainment, and the ladies of the establishment also, by peering through the lattice, — for men and women are never in society together. In fact,

there is no society in Mahommedan countries. These Ghawazee pride themselves on being descended from the Barmakees, referred to in the Arabian Nights. It is not advisable to write all that might be written illustrative of the course of life they pursue, and that of their ancestors before them, for more than thirty centuries. It appears, from monumental record, they danced in Egypt long before the children of Israel made their exit, precisely as they did in my presence; for, in the old tomb paintings, are representations of dancing-girls at entertainments, performing to the accompaniments of instruments, who were, if possible, more depraved than they are now commonly supposed to be, as they danced in a nude condition. To show that they are unchanged, and that the peculiarity of the dance and its corrupting tendencies are precisely what they ever were in the worst period of ancient Egyptian heathenism, it is only necessary to declare that I witnessed the performance of two of these dancers, who, in the midst of their exaltation, actually threw off their only covering, and continued the remainder of their performance absolutely naked.

Circles of pantaloonless Arabs, boys of all ages, and vulgar females, — veiled, of course, — with strangers in hats, caps, and tarbousches and frocks, are met with, in which one or two natives are singing. To me, there was not even an approach to harmony. Certainly, had there been a regularly-defined tune, I must have detected it; but, shocking as it was, the crowd were invariably entranced both by the sentiment and air. Sometimes it struck me there was a recitative, — a whining dialogue. Had their voices been distinguished for softness, clearness, or volume, the nature of the effect on the groups would have been understood better; but a blow on a cracked kettle would have been just as musical. Standing on tiptoe, one morning, to distinguish, over the heads of those in the com-

pact phalanx before me, the words the singers articulated, a Syrian dragoman, whom I knew, observed that it was *very good*. This observation prompted me to ask what he meant: Was it the air or the poetry that gratified him? "Both," he quickly replied; "our peoples is very fond of dese moosic." Afterwards, watching the varying expression of Ibrahim's face, rather than the "moosic," and quickly discovering that it elated him very perceptibly, he was questioned again. He told me that the song, or, rather, the stanzas, were composed as they sang, the subject being a beautiful slave and gold, — the only two things worth living for, in an Arab's estimation. Plays are enacted, also, in the streets, or, rather, open spaces near the most travelled thoroughfares; but they are too childish, tame and insipid, to be worth analyzing.

Coffee-houses are the resorts of idlers, where professed story-tellers resort to gain an honest penny. From all accounts, it must be a low amusement; for the listeners could not appreciate a noble sentiment or a patriotic burst of enthusiasm. Whatever is retailed to the smokers must be brought down to the debased level of their moral feelings. It is flimsy stuff, at best, if my information is correct. In pursuit of an opium-smoking shop, a hope was indulged that I might light upon one of the retailers of extravagant stories; but not one came under my cognizance. I have a distinct recollection of passing near a place where a number of sober, bushy-bearded Arabs were smoking extract of Indian hemp, which produced results altogether extraordinary. Without a word being said, one would suddenly commence laughing, till the tears rolled down his cheeks; then another would follow, and another, till a person, unacquainted with the peculiar effects of the drug, would suppose that their obstreperous mirth was the result of a deep and keen perception of something excessively ridiculous.

Their ecstatic visions, while the brain is acted upon by this most remarkable of all articles on the nervous system, far exceed those produced by opium.

EDUCATION.

Of the literature of modern Egypt, my researches have been far too limited to justify me in advancing an opinion. It is admitted, however, by those who should know, that there is none. Men of political distinction cannot write their names; and many, in official stations, wear monstrosities, in the shape of rings, on their fingers, bearing a seal, with which they sign documents, by first rubbing some thick black ink on it with the end of a finger, and then pressing on the paper. Some appear to act as though it were beneath them to read or write, it being the office of slaves to use books. This must be a remnant of old Mameluke times, when the great men were ignorant of those accomplishments, and made it fashionable to discard their cultivation. It cannot be so at this late day, since the discovery has been made by them, in their intercourse with howadjis, that knowledge is power. I have frequently seen Turkish officers impress their signet-ring, but could not ascertain whether they could read or not. Such persons have their secretaries, who are generally Armenians, Jews, Syrians, and Copts. Those who can write — and, judging from the number of those who carry writing apparatus, they are numerous in the busy parts of the cities — have a heavy brass or silver ink-box, stuck in their silk girdles. No doubt some carry it for show, as an essential fixture of a business man. I never saw any book read but the Koran, and that in a mosque. There, the pious investigator of the truth announced, by the see-sawing motion of his body, and loud intonation of his voice, that he cared for nobody. Sometimes, in ranging through the bazaars, persons may be

seen casting up accounts; but reading, as a purely mental exercise, for pleasure or improvement, is presumed to be an unknown exercise.

There are so called colleges of dervishes; but the word rendered college, in the Arabic, to my understanding, does not convey the idea of a school of literature, but a peculiar sect of Mussulmans, who conceive that whirling round, like a teetotum, till they are unconscious, brings them into intimate spiritual communion with the prophet; and their institution, therefore, is for maintaining the purity of their faith, and the practice of these gyrations, and the prayers which distinguish the sect. But the idea of study for improvement, by the assistance of other minds, through books, is absurd: the Koran, the book of books, contains all they wish to know of earth or heaven.

Schools for the primary instruction of youth are comparatively modern inventions. They are established in Alexandria, Cairo, Ekhmin, and other large towns. Wherever they are located, they would be considered an outrageous nuisance, in any country but Egypt. Such is the uproar that bedlam would as soon be suspected a place of learning, by a stranger, as one of those nurseries of the immortal mind. All the scholars are boys; girls are of no account, and therefore never have a thought bestowed upon them in regard to education. A shrewd observer, who was every inch a Turk, said, if they were taught to write, they would be intriguing; and it was better, therefore, that they should never know anything beyond the door of the harem, for which they were destined by nature and custom. Children, large and small, at school, sit flat on the floor, — as their superiors in age do, of a larger growth, — without a stool, chair, table, desk, or a support for the back. There is no kind of furniture in the room. Usually, the school is on the first floor, on the street, the door being open, and the whole system

exposed to the gaze of the passers-by. Many of the teachers are stone blind. I remember of watching the discipline of a school, in Alexandria, which was a model one in some respects, because the boys screamed the loudest, and the master had a good ear and industrious habits. Although blind, he was braiding mats continually; and, when the whole school read extracts from the Koran, at the top of their voices, all at once, the acuteness of his ear was sufficient to detect a mistake among nearly forty as mischievous little urchins as were ever sent to worry a pedagogue. A board, a little less than a foot square, is held in the left hand, and resting in the lap, by some, who write what they are directed, from the Koran. They are equivalent to slates. The handwriting is large, and distinctly drawn. They learn the alphabet in the same manner.

Of the higher systems of instruction, principally in the hands of the priesthood, — if there is one, — and persons who are in connection with the mosques, no reliable information has been collected.

While strolling towards the harbor, one day, in a back street of Alexandria, I came to a school-room, the floor of which was

rather below the grade of the street. A large boy sat in front of the master, reeling to and fro while reciting from memory, and crying bitterly at the same time, which particularly caught my attention. I therefore stood watching him. The retention of the lad's memory was perfectly surprising. He neither hesitated, stammered, nor omitted a word; still the big tears rolled down his ruddy cheeks. I became impatient to ascertain the cause. When the recitation came to an end, the master seized him by the collar, back of his neck, with the ferocity of a tiger, and jerked him on his face. The boy struggled, as though it were for life. At the same moment, a stalwart Arab, from a remote corner, flew to the spot, and seized the legs of the resisting prisoner, — bringing with him a stick the size of his wrist, strung with two cords. As it fell on the floor, it bore some resemblance to an ox-yoke, — the cords entering by both ends, like the bows. I saw the object was to put the culprit's ankles into the loops, draw one end, and thus hold both feet in a vice. The violence of the struggle, and the savage determination of the two men, was exciting in the highest degree, — all my sympathies being roused in behalf of the resisting child. They had not fairly subdued him, when one of them happened to raise his eyes, and, for the first time, saw me. He let go his hold, and slunk back, muttering something, it was presumed, about hated Frank. All three were afraid, perhaps, of the evil eye. The urchin was quickly on his feet, and walked to his place. I remained a while longer, with a spirited determination to give them the full influence of a stare. This incident led me to believe that infractions of the teacher's laws are severely punished by the bastinado. The instrument for binding the feet was precisely like one which we saw in one of the courts. Blows are the evidence of power in this country; and those who deal out the most of them are the most feared.

SCIENCE.

Whether there is any attention given to the sciences by the natives, remains to be discovered. Medicine and surgery, on the score of economy, were considered worth fostering by Mohammed Ali, who instituted a medical school, for the education of surgeons for the army and navy. Their religious horror of a dead body was overcome by the viceroy, who could conquer all scruples with a bastinado. He had in his service a French surgeon, known to fame as Clot Bey, who, being a favorite, was liberally indulged in carrying out plans which secured his own name from perishing, while they brought about a great revolution in the public sentiment. When his school of medicine was ready, the pasha had intelligent boys placed there, whether they wished to be surgeons or not. Their first lessons were in reading their own language; and, by degrees, they heard lectures on anatomy and surgery, then dissected, &c., till a surgeon was wanted by government. The best on the catalogue was always taken for this purpose, and thus a large body of native surgeons was created. They never acquired a knowledge of the French language; consequently, each lecture was translated into Arabic, before they comprehended its character. A few of them were sent to Paris, with a view, if possible, of rearing up a body of professors; but the viceroy never realized his expectations from these. There is nothing in the Arabs susceptible of being improved by European academies. On their return, though they might have acquired the French dialect, they had no more science than before. Not a single instance is recorded of brilliant success on the part of these beneficiaries. During their pupilage, they are fed, clothed and have a regular monthly income.

There are several military hospitals on the river, for seamen

and disabled troops, in which native surgeons are assistants; but I know of no institution in which any one is intrusted with discretionary power. English physicians and surgeons, who happen to be established near any of those establishments, are invariably placed at the head of them.

The medical school is now controlled principally by a few German medical gentlemen, who came into favor with the pasha as the French party walked out. The last was in the ascendant from the organization of the government under Mohammed Ali to the day of his death, when a new ruler succeeded, who had new aspirations, new objects of ambition, and old personal grudges. Clot Bey was obliged to retire; but he has had no successor who has accomplished anything for science or humanity. One or two French books on medical science were translated into Arabic, while Clot Bey was in the meridian of his activity. All that native practitioners know of the diseases peculiar to Egypt is from foreigners.

There are Arabic hakems, who have had no intercourse with the new teachers, and who practise, it is concluded, as their predecessors did, by the agency of incantations, charms, and other nonsense, which, to the ignorant sufferers who seek their assistance, is of a solemn character. My interview with one of this order is mentioned, in the diary, at Thebes.

MERCANTILE LIFE.

Egypt has necessarily been a trading country, from its geographical position, and geological organization. There are two classes of merchants here, as everywhere else; namely, the capitalists, who pursue a species of wholesaling, and others, who deal on a smaller scale. Grain, slaves, cotton and dates, constitute the bulk of the river commerce. To carry on business, therefore, through the whole country, far into the regions beyond

the control of the government, merchants from the interior of Africa must bring to the Egyptian market products which Egyptians are not permitted to go for themselves. Thus, ivory, ostriches, curious varieties of hard wood, monkeys and dates, are brought immense distances, from places quite unknown to modern travellers, except by name. They come down over the two upper cataracts, with their property, and occasionally still lower down, to Assuan, where an exchange is made, for such articles as may be in demand where they belong.

Assuan is the first slave-market in Egypt. All slaves introduced into the country from the interior of Africa come down the Nile, and, on arriving there, a registration is made, and a duty required to be paid on each,—already referred to,—before they can be forwarded to Cairo. The revenue from that one source is very considerable. I have seen Dongola and Darfoor boats, with slaves from beyond those countries. It was at Assuan I had an interview with the Abyssinian merchant, mentioned in the diary, who had never heard of America; and yet he was a man of intelligence, of eager curiosity, and gentlemanly address. To him Cairo was the centre of the universe, the great capital of the commercial world.

One evening, while seated in a circle of smoking, caravan Arabs, in the desert of Arabia, one of them withdrew his pipe, spun out a mouthful of smoke, in a fine-drawn wire, and asked me if people wore such things on their heads, in my country, as was then on mine,—a common black hat. Next he inquired the cost of it. The price—five dollars—astonished him; he thought it monstrously dear, and quite objectionable, because it was so stiff, hard to the head, unyielding, and like an iron pot. He next inquired if I had ever seen a town as large as Cairo. A dot was made in the sand, with my finger, to repre-

sent that city, and then a circle drawn, about a foot in diameter, which stood for London. It was represented that one city bore the same relation to the other that the finger-point did to the circle. As Cairo has not far from two hundred thousand inhabitants, and London over two millions, he was given to understand the comparison was not out of the way. But he and his associates shook their heads, with an air of incredulity; they evidently entertained their original opinion, that Cairo was unequalled for beauty, wealth, population and power.

Bazaars are stores. One street is exclusively appropriated to those dealing in certain articles, and another to others, and thus through all the shades of trade. Retail shops vary from four feet square to ten by twenty,—very rarely larger; but the majority are mere boxes, into which the proprietor can back, when his goods are properly stowed. If filled with calicoes, cotton cloth, and such like materials, the owner sits, cross-legged, in the doorway, smoking. Customers cannot enter, if they would, into many of them; and, to save them the trouble, the pieces they ask for are handed down, even without rising. I have seen many of those energetic capitalists fast asleep, in passing along by their dens; but they seldom, if ever, lose anything by theft, which is a rare offence; and, consequently, their property is perfectly safe, however long Morpheus holds them captive. Grocers, with a mixed assortment, manage differently, as they are obliged to move to a tap one way, a candle-box in another, etc. Those who trade altogether in coffee, soap, fuel, cloths, trunks, pipes, ink, saddlery, tarbousches, pistols, swords, shoes, &c., remain as firm as an oak, and simply reach the particular thing that is demanded. They urge no trade, waste no breath in praising the quality, and re-commence smoking when the prospect of a bargain disappears. Their prices are generally high in proportion to the quality.

Hardware — such as knives, gimblets, chisels, hoes, &c., which are approved by the mechanics, needles, scissors, thimbles, &c., for the females — is of the poorest description, but quite as good for customers as that of a better quality, because, such is the scarcity of money among the people, they could not pay more than they already do.

On what might appropriately be termed the Exchange, where the wholesaling is conducted, business is managed in this wise. Grave, portly, big-bearded personages, with large turbans, of variegated colors, and smoking long pipes, with dignified moderation, are seated in the dry dust, — some on mats, and others on the bare terra firma,—with samples by their sides, on mats. When I have been among them, there appeared to be a slack time; few were buying. These observations apply particularly to grain-venders, who, after all, are the principal merchants, as grain is the essential staple of the country, and the only production, on a large scale, to trade upon, for exportation. Egypt has been very celebrated, from the day when Joseph's brethren came from Palestine to buy corn, for its abundant and prolific yield of breadstuffs.

Some of the mounds of grain near Boulac, standing without any covering, are truly enormous. It is not hazarding too much to assume that five thousand bushels may be in one of those heaps. Up at Old Cairo, and at the ferry of Geezeh, on the pyramid side of the Nile, the piles of millet, beans, wheat, and other grains, are amazing for magnitude. Those of the largest grade belong to the government, collected, on the monopoly system, from the farmers; but the batches under the keeping of individuals are in the line of legitimate trade. If all the merchants on 'Change, in Boston or New York, at the usual hour of assembling, were seated, helter skelter, on the pavements, dressed with scarfs round their heads, instead of

steeple hats, and amber pipe-stems in their mouths, with specimens of their magazines before them, on fire-rugs and straw matting, all silent as death, — not a word being articulated, — while the smoke of their chibouques rolled in graceful curls up to the heavens, some conception might be formed of the appearance which the first-class merchants make in certain localities in and about the metropolitan city of Egypt.

Brokers are too numerous; and a rascally set of knaves and oily villains they are. Exchanging money is a leading business, both in Cairo and Alexandria. I have never seen them in any other towns. Usually, they have a small niche, as it were, — a mere door, in the side of a house, — deep enough to receive their iron or wooden safe. A small table, an open drawer, or the top of a chest, is the counting-room of some. Scales, money-tables, with all the appliances for cheating, in the politest manner, whenever adventurers get within their magic circle, are near at hand. Jews and Greeks appear to monopolize money affairs exclusively, at Alexandria, with the exception of a few regular English houses, with which commercial transactions on a large scale are conducted. In Cairo, the number of persons sitting at money-boxes quite takes a stranger by surprise. How they can all be supported is a problem.

LAWS.

The pasha is, nominally, a vassal of the Sultan of Turkey. His will is the law, let it be ever so whimsical or unrighteous. From the vice-regal throne down to the people, there are certain tribunals for the dispensation of justice, having cognizance of offences against government and society, which are orderly, and recognized as the fountains of law. How or where these courts obtained their authority, is unknown to me; nor could I satisfy myself when their labors commenced or ended, or whether there

were specific periods for sessions, or whether they were perpetually in session.

Cairo, being divided into eight wards, has a sheik over each, residing within his jurisdiction, who settles trifling misunderstandings between parties, and keeps a general oversight of the inmates of each house.

The patriarch of the Copts oversees his particular sect, and, as far as he can, maintains the peace.

Each trade and profession has its sheik, to whom reference is made in their quarrels and jealousies. When the influence of these officers is not sufficient, then an appeal to higher authority is before them; or, rather, the offenders are sent there. Who commissions these several sheiks, was a question not answered. It is quite probable that they are appointed by the minister of the interior or home department.

With all the revolutions Egypt has undergone since taken by the Arabs, it is a little curious that the system of police government they instituted for the control of the demi-savages, — their own people, — has not been essentially modified since. Whoever has had the supreme command has discovered that the old organization for towns and villages is better than any system they could propose; and, therefore, few, if any, alterations were made, even by Mohammed Ali.

The pasha, on coming into power, chooses men known for their capacity and judgment, to constitute *the council of state deliberations*, whom he, of course, sways as he pleases. They would not dare act contrary to his wishes. At the citadel, is a court called ed Deewin el Khideewee, where the pasha is theoretically presiding in person, though a deputy invariably sits on the bench. It adjudicates in cases where the kadi is doubtful, if such can occur; and bribes turn the suit either way, accord

ing to the quantity of money proffered for a favorable decision, by the respective parties.

The court of the kadi is a dignified appendage of the government in name only, because the corruptions that are practised in it are notorious. A new kadi is appointed annually, at Constantinople, who comes to Egypt a stranger, sometimes even without a knowledge of the language. When the new judge arrives, the old one returns. In the single year, he contrives to provide for his future necessities.

The kadi is said to buy the office. No one cares whether he knows anything of the principles of law at home or abroad; the only pre-requisites being these, namely, the applicant must be a person of intelligence, a Turk by birth, and of a sect termed Hanafees. The court is called the *place of judgment*. The kadi in Cairo has little or no interest in his tribunal, beyond securing his fees, regulated by custom, and getting as much more as possible; for the term of service is short, and he therefore cuts deeply into any and all property within his reach. A deputy transacts the principal business, while his principal pockets the money.

Litigants rely upon the interpreter to give the right turn to their cases; and, of course, he, too, dips into the passing dish. Through his fingers the bribes pass with peculiar facility, — he translating precisely to suit his own interest; and no one expects redress, if the decision is against him.

A Christian is not permitted to testify against a Mohammedan. The party losing the case pays all the cost. Two per cent. is the fee of the kadi, in suits where real estate is at stake which is held by individuals in the cities. In cases where there is no land, he fixes the fees as he likes; and then each officer of the court must have backshiesh out of the property of the unfortunate fellows who get within their grasp. There is

plenty of law, but no justice. When both parties pay liberal bribes to the court, each presuming the other ignorant of the measures of his opponent, the case is immensely prolonged, till their means are sometimes exhausted, when a decision is forthwith announced. Jury trials are unknown. On another page I have narrated an interview with the judge of this great court, and acknowledged his civilities.

At Alexandria I went, with a dragoman, to the court equivalent to a common police tribunal, which was in an old building near the ancient harbor, having one large, rough room on the first floor, divided by a partition rising a few feet from the floor, allowing a free view over the whole apartment. Within one enclosure sat a clerk, and in the other, on a wooden bench, a fine-looking, intelligent Turk, apparently less than forty years of age. Near by, was another divan, on which were two large, full-faced, sober, big-bodied Turks, smoking. The first was a military colonel, the acting judge, and the others his advisers. On a raised platform was the ox-yoke machine for holding offenders by the ankles, for inflicting the bastinado. Policemen were in attendance, while overseeing matters and things in general was a very respectably-dressed, fair specimen of a man, armed with an immense raw-hide whip, mounted with silver ferrules, the badge of authority.

The dragoman went with some reluctance; but I insisted, and we entered together, while a witness was testifying. My dress, probably, caught the attention of the judge, who sent the great man with the whip to inquire what was wanted. Officers, witnesses, and the criminal trembling before his honor, all concentrated a gaze upon us. Through Moosa, it was simply stated that my curiosity had prompted me to call to witness the processes of justice. All this being translated, the judge begged me to be seated, and had something provided for me to

sit upon. He next asked from what country I hailed. When America was named, he expressed some admiration that curiosity alone had induced a person to travel so far. I was then politely urged to put on my hat, as everybody kept on their tarbousches and turbans; but I told him it was not customary to remain covered, in presence of a presiding magistrate, in my country, and I felt bound to render the same token of respect to those before whom I then stood. This observation brought forth a profound salaam from all three of the judges. Reaching up overhead, he took from a shelf a box, in which were a few cigars. Examining one or two, he selected a good one, which was sent, by the marshal, to me, while he charged up a pipe for himself. All this time, the transactions of the court were suspended.

Directly, a policeman marched up with a little tiny cup of coffee, in a silver case, with another for Moosa, — thick, black and strong, without sugar or milk. When that was disposed of, and many questions answered,—for the judge manifested some curiosity, as well as myself, — business was resumed.

The case before their honors was this: A man had married a new wife, — a very inferior specimen of womanhood she was, too, — who had taken possession of the vast sum of five hundred piastres, which she found in the house, the property of two sons by a former wife. All attempts to repossess himself of the money having failed, the husband entered a complaint, and had her brought to the bar. Both of them made their tongues go like a mill-clack, as much freedom being permitted as they could have asked for, in making a plea. After listening a while, the judge articulated a few sentences, and the court was cleared. Moosa informed me that the judge considered the affair of sufficient importance to send it up to the court of the kadi.

Subsequently, it occurred to me to inquire of Moosa how the

woman would be punished, in the event of losing the case. "Why," said he, "de judge vill shut her up in de room, and squeeze her, and by and by de money come." But, if she has spent or squandered it away, how will squeezing bring it back? again was a question. It was explained in this way: that, as females were not punished by blows, as men were, by imprisoning her, some one of her relations, or several of them, would club together and raise the money for her liberation. The confinement, therefore, was rendered *squeezing*, in English.

Capital punishment, from all I could learn, is abolished in Egypt. Females are, unquestionably, destroyed, occasionally, by those who control their destiny as property; but the pasha, I was assured, has not permitted a man to be put to death since he came into office. Just before the arrival of his mother at the place where the pilgrims assemble in the desert, to arrange for an impressive entrance into the city, it was reported that the great lady witnessed some misconduct in an officer of her retinue, which cost him his life, without ceremony.

Those convicted of atrocious crimes — which, to the honor of the country, are very few — are sent to the gold mines, on the White Nile, — a locality not well defined, where they rarely live more than a year. Murder is seldom committed; but when there is a conviction, the prisoner, with his whole family, are positively exiled, without the hope of mercy.

Just at daylight, one morning, the confusion in the consular square, near my window, was so uncommon as to induce me to dress and go out. It turned out that a Maltese sailor had assassinated a man. On the way to the lock-up, — having previously been at the door of the British consul, — he attempted to escape, but unsuccessfully. The crowd hoped he would be immediately taken away, for they wanted no murderers in Egypt.

The government takes no notice of the crimes of foreigners, except to apprehend criminals, and pass them over to the representatives of their government.

There are no drunkards in Egypt among the native inhabitants. None but foreigners, from Christian nations, are ever intoxicated. It is a vice which a Moslem despises and loathes. Many crimes which disgrace humanity in civilized communities, and keep police courts and higher tribunals, even in our own country, fully occupied, are unknown among Mohammedans. These people certainly commit crimes against their own laws; but they are very different, in their general character, from those with which we are most familiar, and it is susceptible of demonstration that more crimes against the peace and dignity of the commonwealth are committed, in a single week, in any of the cities of the United States or Great Britain, among a given number of inhabitants, than in all Egypt in a month.

Hardly any crime can be mentioned which is not punished by the bastinado, on conviction; and a horrible punishment it is. The moment the judge decides that the offence of the accused is to be expiated by blows, the criminal is thrown upon his face, in the court-room, and fastened in a machine which confines him in that position, with the soles of his feet turned up, and kept so; or he is held down by the servants of the court, his feet drawn by cords run through a wooden bar, and then the blows are applied by two men, either side, each with a horrible whip, made of the raw hide of the hippopotamus, rolled into a round form, who cut on, alternately, without mercy.

It seems to me that the sense of compassion for the physical sufferings of others is unknown to Egyptian tribunals; for the corporal punishments inflicted are shocking to humanity, and

beyond the conception of Christian communities. Russia alone rivals, if it does not surpass, by the knout, the atrocious punishment by the courbash.

Bastinadoing for non-payment of government dues is barbarous, but, nevertheless, pursued, till the taxes are liquidated. Some relative finally comes to the rescue of the delinquent, if he has no secreted means to fall back upon, in the last extremity. Of the army or naval punishments I have collected no illustrations. In fact, the inquiry was too painful, and the matter was dropped altogether. If they are cruel and without mercy at the civil tribunals, the system of flagellation in the camp and on shipboard must be hellish. I have been told of severity of discipline, under Ibrahim Pasha, the relation of which made one's blood boil.

This disposition to fly to the whip, under all circumstances where order is to be enforced, is a marked trait in the character of the Egyptians. Whoever is in authority seeks an opportunity to show it by a blow.

An addition to the palace of the mother of the pasha was going up, not far from the main residence of the Franks; and it was one of my morning recreations to take a position under a shade tree, and watch the mechanical processes. The part that was being erected was of stone, every block of which was obtained from the ruins of some previous edifice. Camels were constantly arriving with them, and emptying the rope-nets of their contents, near where they were to be used. There was a mortar-bed, in which the lime and sand were mixed by the hands of women. Men brought the water, in skins, on their backs. A legion of small boys and girls, with trays holding a few quarts, came to the mortar-bed, filled them, and marched off with them on their heads, winding up the planks, to the top of the rising wall. When they emptied out

the contents, the mason plumped a stone into it, and thus there was a constant falling mass of mortar. All these movements of the children were regulated by watchmen, with sticks or whips, who thrashed their backs unmercifully, if the slightest deviation from the prescribed course were observed.

For some misdemeanor, one of the boys, one morning, was marched off for the police court. I followed, as long as my outraged sympathies would permit, to ascertain what he had been doing, and the result of the investigation. Such harshness and severity as the policemen meted out to the poor, helpless child distressed me beyond endurance, without the possibility of pleading in his behalf. He struggled with the strength of an infant giant, as though he knew that the tortures of the damned awaited him. A group of women kept near him, one of whom, from the earnestness of her manner, was supposed to be the mother of the juvenile culprit. She even neglected to keep her veil adjusted, and repeatedly exposed her agonized face. Other females collected, and evinced a degree of feeling that was honorable to the sex; while men and soldiers, and idling lads, appeared perfectly indifferent to the painful scene that was passing.

Parental love is the same in every bosom, and in every country. The caresses bestowed by the lowest gradation of Arabs, in a mud hut, on their children, are as pure and cordial as the tenderest exhibitions in a Christian family. A mother is always true to the instincts of her nature. She cherishes and defends her child, and death alone can limit the extent of her efforts. It was a gratification to find one condition of life, in this old theatre of humanity, in which kindness was a spontaneous product of the heart.

RELIGION.

Mohammedanism, like Mormonism, permits and regulates indulgences in a way to satisfy the deceived believer that he is piously doing his duty, while gratifying the selfish and low propensities of his nature. No wonder that a system that gives license for trampling on the rights of others, if they interfere with the ample provisions made by their prophet, rouses both individual and national anger.

They are the most tolerant people on earth, and permit others to worship God as they choose, so long as no attempt is made to proselyte or seduce the followers of the Mohammedan faith from the homage due to their great spiritual guide. Although there are some who have the reputation of being more orthodox than others, and who have made further advances and exhibit purer lives than ordinary worshippers, there seems to be no division of sentiment among them in respect to the unalienable rights of men to deprive the other sex of every social and political privilege. There can be no progress where woman is degraded, and exercises no influence in moulding and refining the character of society. On no subject are Mohammedans so sensitive as on that of religion. The conceived infraction of a single law that emanates from the Koran rouses them to fury; and the first thought is, to slaughter those who have dared to frown or ridicule upon the sacred institutions of Moslemism. Satisfied that they possess the only revelation which indicates the road to heaven,—and the doctrine being taught by authority, and enforced, too, when necessary, by the sword,—neither ambition nor curiosity prompts even the most learned among them to investigate the claims of Jew or Gentile; but they hate them both, without being able to assign a satisfactory reason. Their code of morals is strictly observed;

but what is Mohammedan virtue, in the estimation of a professor of Christianity? They admit that our Saviour was a divine personage, — a messenger from God, — but inferior, in dignity and power, to Mohammed. Taught to despise all who differ from themselves in religious opinions, what can they know of the fundamental principles of our faith? They neither know nor care about the intellectuality of religion; nor can they comprehend, they say, the philosophy of making one's self miserable on earth to gain a heaven hereafter. This idea

POSTURES OF PRAYER.

of individual wretchedness is probably based on observations made upon the appearance and habits of Catholic monks, of various orders, established in convents all over the East.

Reasoning from what they see, they very naturally conclude that a rational being who goes bare-footed, when he might wear shoes, — who cords his body with a rope, night and day,

— who begs, when he could earn his bread, — is a fool. They refer, also, to nominal Christians, who are in readiness to do things, where they imagine themselves unknown, which they would scorn to do at home. Mussulmans prefer a faith that offers to their benighted minds more happiness in this life, and the expectation of greater felicity in the world to which they are destined.

The Egyptian adults do not appear remarkably affectionate towards each other, of the same family. All the usual courtesies of life are observed with a degree of solemnity that leads to a suspicion that their salaams are without a particle of sincerity. Towards the domestic animals they are particularly kind, and especially to those that hover about their habitations. They are patient, slow to anger, and exceedingly benevolent in calling down blessings.

Horses, camels, sheep, goats and birds, that flee from Europeans, in deadly fear, stand in no apprehension of the approach of the Arab peasantry. Timid little birds, pigeons, wild fowl, or predacious eagles, scarcely move out of their way. This shows that generations, from a remote epoch, have been so tenderly treated that the instinct of fear is nearly obliterated. Wild geese are no exception; and they abound on the Nile, through the winter, beyond computation. They arrive, it is conjectured, periodically, to avoid the severity of northern winters.

In Alexandria there is a small Episcopal society, maintained by British residents. Nine persons only were present on one occasion, when I attended service; and, a second time, a still smaller number. The Roman Catholics have a fine edifice, with a large walled enclosure, chiefly sustained by the Italians. A new building, of a soft, light, yellow sandstone, from Malta,

MEN OF THE MIDDLE AND HIGHER CLASSES Page 355.

for the Episcopal church, is well located, on the consular square, and will, no doubt, soon be completed.

In Upper Egypt, mention is made, in the diary, of a convent of Greeks, and a Roman Catholic chapel. Egypt is a clear field for missionaries, who would not be molested in their efforts among the Jews, though it would be dangerous to meddle with the Moslem believers.

DOMESTIC HABITS AND ECONOMY.

The garments of the Arabs give them a fine appearance, since they fit every one, no matter what his height, size, or age. They look elegant and dignified, when well dressed. A Greek costume, which is pretty generally worn by the Turks, who ape foreign fashions, will not compare with the other, for it imparts no princely character to the wearer. All the officers of the army and civil service have the French fashion of pantaloons and frock-coat; but still retain the red cap, with a blue silk tassel. A shirt, in the country, is an unknown article; and but few in the cities ever possessed one. Collars, cravats, plaited bosoms, ruffles and wristbands, are unrecognized embarrassments. A majority sleep at night in the clothes worn through the day.

Beds are unknown, except in the three hotels which have been created for the accommodation of travellers, and in the houses of foreigners. In the dwellings of the opulent, the family repose on piles of soft cushions, thrown on a slightly-raised platform, round the sides of the room. Throughout the rural districts, a straw mat, on the mud floor, answers the same purpose.

How ladies dress, in the harems of the great men, is only known to their proprietors, and those few favored females who are permitted to have access to them. Other women sel-

dom wear more than two articles of dress: namely, a long, loose blue frock, with bag sleeves, open in front to the waist, and an apology for a veil, with which they hide their faces.

Standing by a blazing brush fire, just lighted, in the desert, where we had encamped, one of the camel-drivers made some inquiry about my pantaloons. He said he could not endure to be confined in two bags; and, holding up his frock, to take the full influence of the heat, intimated that I had no such comfort as he was enjoying.

The custom of concealing the face, by females, is universal; a peep-hole, however, for one eye, — frightfully bedaubed with kohol, antimony, or some other blue paint, — to survey the outer world, is allowed. With one hand the cloth is held together,

WASHING, BEFORE OR AFTER MEALS.

in folds, to hide their features, and with the other they steady burdens on their heads, or hold a child by the legs, sitting on one of their shoulders. Their little children are a nuisance,

WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF THE LOWER CLASSES. Page 336.

they are so very offensive, from the soreness of their eyes, the dirty state of their skin, and their shorn heads. It is an important consideration with them to keep off the evil eye,—an emanation from a Christian, or any other unholy, uncircumcised dog, who may look on their offspring, with the avowed intention of throwing a curse.

A table ceremony is much the same in all families, where it is well regulated; for there no female sits with her husband or sons. There being neither knives nor forks, spoons nor pick-

PARTY AT DINNER.

ers, the frequent use of the fingers requires much washing of the hands.

The position on the floor, to me, was prodigiously uncom-

they [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible]
dirty [illegible] [illegible]
and [illegible]
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A table [illegible]
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sons. There [illegible]

fortable, — the table being both too low, and the food too hot; which made the sitting till all the dishes had been tasted extremely irksome.

In Cairo and Alexandria, ladies are met taking an airing, on asses, preceded by a runner, cracking a whip to clear the way. A slave goes by their side, to steady them in case of accident, followed by a formidable coal-black eunuch, the guardian-angel of female respectability and virtue wherever Mohammedanism prevails. A strange part of these veiled exhibitions, to us outside barbarians, was this, namely, that the females invariably sit astride the animal on the saddle, with both feet firmly set in the stirrups, while their bodies, on these occasions, are enveloped in large black silk cloaks, which inflate with the wind, and give them a ludicrous aspect.

I have collected some startling facts in regard to the traffic in that most unfortunate of men, the Ethiopian eunuchs, who, at this day, as in every age, beyond the reach of history, have been in request in Egypt, and throughout the orient. The destruction of human life is deplorable, in preparing the poor stolen boys, to fit them for the functions they are to perform, when grown to an adult stature, in the harems of those who are able to purchase them of the slave-dealers.

Nearly all the eunuchs who are brought to market are from the interior of Africa, and are brought down the Nile. For some years, the Coptish priests in Abyssinia were accused of being the operators. Not more than twenty in a hundred are represented to survive the cruel maiming. For this reason, the price is always so high that only persons of wealth can afford to purchase them.

Several well-informed gentlemen assured me that the loss of life had been less under the improved system that was now employed. Instead of ignorant priests, two French surgeons,

of abandoned character, are residing at a place somewhere in Dongola; for the express purpose of making eunuchs for the Egyptian and Turkish markets. Their murderous cruelty, which consigns hundreds to the grave in the very spring-tide of life, should be brought to an end, if it is possible for Christian or political influences to reach them. I find it difficult to explain myself intelligibly on this subject. The maiming is not what most writers, especially medical commentators, suppose. That would not endanger life to the extent represented. The maiming is an utter excision and removal of every vestige that characterizes the boy from the other sex. They die of excessive hæmorrhage, before the arteries can be secured, especially when they fall under the worse than barbarian murderers who are ignorant of their anatomical organization.

No people are proverbially so honest and trustworthy, stable-minded, abstemious, and moral, in the system to which they have been trained, as the Egyptians. Their Koran, — the prophetic guide, in which they have an unshaken confidence, — and their wise men, have marked out a chart of social, religious and political duties, the observance of which is essential to purity of life. There are neither almshouse, penitentiaries, state prisons, poor rates, nor a tax for the maintenance of a priesthood. They have cherished institutions, to which they cling with tenacity.

With this view of the organization of society, and the feeling that pervades all orders of minds, what could a missionary accomplish, till he first overturned, and broke up, and blotted out of remembrance, whatever is vitally at war with the first principles of the Christian code? He must first destroy institutions that were as firmly established in Egypt and Palestine as they now are, before Abraham sojourned in the Holy Land.

This prepares the way for some remarks on the following subjects:

MARRIAGE AND POLYGAMY.

If polygamy runs riot anywhere, it is in Egypt; for it seems to be the ambition of every man, as in Turkey, to have a grand domestic establishment, because it is the appendage of a gentleman, and an indication of position and respectability. In every condition, among poor or rich, a prominent desire is to have a very numerous family of children. It is a predominant national trait, influencing, alike, both sexes. No one ever had too many, or relinquished the delightful anticipation of having more.

There are two places, in Upper Egypt, famed for conferring on females the extent of their wishes, — to become mothers. They are both stones, — perhaps old door-steps, — over which they step or stand, uttering invocations, probably, to the prophet; and, such is their reputation, that women make long journeys to them. Dr. Abbott, of Cairo, informed me that he had some mummies stowed in an out-of-the-way building, enclosed by a yard, into which he one day entered, where, to his surprise, were a large number of women and girls, some quite juvenile, who, being alarmed, flew away as fast as they could scamper, but finally returned to explain themselves. They had heard that, by jumping over a mummy twelve times, they should be fruitful; and thus the rabble, young and old, had been running for luck over those dried remains of humanity.

This whim seems to have been universally diffused through the east; and even the females of Athens, in the glory of Greece, used to slide down a certain rock, near the Aræopagus, to obtain the same favor of the gods.

The lady of the house in which we resided, in Alexandria,

told me that her cook, a young man, had three wives. In reply to the question how he could possibly support them, with their increasing stock of children, she said that he did nothing for them. He expended his wages to suit himself; and they contrived to subsist, in small huts, at a remote part of the town, as they could.

While in the desert, in the course of an evening chat over the expiring embers under which a millet-cake was baking, one of the circle — who was evidently a man of consequence in the caravan to which he belonged, and who was listened to with a respectful attention by those in his company — asked where I came from. It was extremely difficult to make him comprehend that my country was over a great ocean, beyond England. He next inquired the name of the pasha who governed it. I then explained — very imperfectly, however — the principles of our constitution, and told him that the people made and unmade all the high and low pashas, and turned them out of office, if they abused their power.

This was altogether marvellous political intelligence; for he, for the first time, to my apprehension, heard of a republic. Possibly a seed was sown, that may germinate at a future day, and spread its branches through Syria. Finally, I came directly to the point, and assured my attentive, big-turbaned acquaintance, that America was a land of freedom. This made his eyes sparkle, and he puffed longer whiffs of smoke. When the account was concluded, he asked if it was a good country to procure wives in! Being taken by surprise by this question, I took an extreme case, where a gentleman fell upon his marrow-bones, and besought the object of his adoration to have mercy upon him; and, to keep him from hanging himself, the lady, after sufficiently humbling her suppliant, sometimes consented to become his wife. This was an unexpected process, and a

perfect stumbling-block; for he could not comprehend how females should be permitted to exercise either a free will or express a choice. On the whole, he remarked, after a little reflection, he did not think much of our system. He then went on to say that Syria was a bad country for wives, — his success in that way had been far from satisfactory. He had recently divorced four, and was now trying four new ones; and, with a sort of sigh, further observed, that, among them all, he had but just six children! I then asked him how he could support so many women, with their children, in this poor, oppressed, sandy region? "O," said he, rolling his eyes up devotionally towards the heaven, "God is great!" — "Sir," I observed, rather incautiously, no doubt, "were you in America, they would string you up by the neck, for it is a crime there to have more than one wife at a time." — "Then I don't think much of the liberty of which you have boasted," he quickly replied.

One of his camel-drivers — a mere lad — said that he had only one wife yet; but she had a *bint*, — that is, a little girl, — and he was, therefore, satisfied, for the present, with his good fortune. This brought an observation from another Arab, Hassein, — a snakey, black-eyed, copper-colored fellow, full of activity and good nature, — who exultingly declared he had three!

In the same caravan was a miserable dirty being, with two boys and a girl, whom he abused outrageously, — kicking, and thrashing them with a short pipe-stick, as though their heads were kettle-drums. I felt compassionately towards the poor, abused girl, with all her present and growing troubles incident to the position of females in that country; for she had club-feet, — the first and only malformation of the limbs I saw in the desert. The old scoundrel used to intimate that he was starving, when a little hard bread was given to the children, by way

of getting a crumb for himself. While trudging along by my camel's side, I inquired where he was travelling. He said he was intending to go to Musr, for he heard it was a good place to procure a wife.

Life in the desert, with the opportunities presented for gathering information of this kind, would hardly find credence among Christians, and I shall not, therefore, relate anything further of this character, since the foregoing are sufficient to illustrate the customs and present condition of society with one class of inhabitants.

Wives so unfortunate as not to become mothers, by general consent, hold the affections of their husbands by an uncertain tenure. Divorces, from that cause, are so common, as to create but little or no surprise where they occur. Other causes happen to promote the infelicity of the parties, which cannot very well be explained. A person assured me he had known a man to have four wives, — the legalized number permitted by the Koran, — and divorce all of them in the course of twelve months. And why was he so fickle-minded? was a question asked before I was aware of it. "*Cause he try and no like 'em,*" was the speedy answer.

All Egypt is full of divorced women. In obtaining a wife, the adventurer literally searches, with one hand, in a bag of serpents, for a single eel; for he never sees her till after marriage. Those wives who have sons — according to the information derived from those who must know the whole structure of the social relations — possess almost unlimited authority in the household. Notwithstanding the prodigious number of females of the upper classes shut up in harems, there is certainly a redundancy of female population throughout Egypt, as statistical tables show there is in the whole of Europe.

According to some writers on the manners and customs of

the Egyptians, polygamy is not so common in the higher walks of life as has been represented. Those who are most familiar with the organization of society explain the matter thus: A gentleman finds it too expensive to support a numerous harem, in which there is a full complement of four wives, with their necessary attendants; and he therefore concentrates his attention upon one, who is provided with a retinue of female slaves, — the property of the husband, — who become mothers of many children. In that relation they are more economically supported.

In the interior of the country, among the fellahs, it is very certain as many avail themselves of the constitutional number of four wives as can maintain them. They, on the other hand, have no female slaves in the same anomalous position of the female slaves of a rich man's household.

An impression is abroad that the population is decreasing in Egypt. On the contrary, we believe that, since the termination of the wars in which the late viceroy and his son were actively engaged, an increase has taken place, which will shortly be perceptible. The government takes no census, and strives to conceal both the number of inhabitants and the resources of agriculture.

A family of brothers occasionally present the singular anomaly of being of all shades of color, from white to black. Children of wealthy fathers, however, are usually better looking and lighter in complexion than the indigent, on account of the fair skins of their Circassian and other imported mothers. All the Turks in Egypt — constituting the highest class, as in Turkey — are really only half-blooded; and, in consequence of this mixture of races, they are among the handsomest of men, in their physical development, on the globe; and, while their custom of purchasing wives distinguished alone for their beauty

continues, they will be further improved in that respect. The pure, unadulterated Arabs, as far as my examinations extended, are very dark, swarthy and straight-haired, with a light beard. Where there is a heavy, bushy beard and whiskers, it is very certain that this graceful appendage, the jewel of their pride, is due to the circulation of northern blood in their veins.

European ladies visiting Egypt omit no opportunities of visiting harems; and some of them are extremely enthusiastic in their descriptions of the elegances they have seen, and the sweet infants they kissed. They have been known, also, to become eloquent against the abomination of boxing up such specimens of unsurpassed beauty and female loveliness. Notwithstanding the severity of their denunciations against the wicked Turks, declaring their conduct shameful, and pronouncing their monopolizing spirit a just cause for immediate hostilities, some commentators have been so ungenerous as to suggest that many of those very indignant spinsters would not refuse the position of first lady of the mansion, if earnestly besought. It is well known that Mrs. M——, the wife of Dr. M——, of Constantinople, an English physician, actually left her husband, and seven young children, to commence life anew, with a distinguished pasha. She seems to have been completely fascinated with the luxurious indolence and secret orgies of a harem. Through her instrumentality, Miss Pardoe, authoress of the City of the Sultan, — a work of extraordinary interest, —got access to them, and thus collected materials for publication.

There is not a native-born woman, either in Egypt or Asia, who would not scorn the proposition of leaving the harem for the marital relation; the former being her conceded appropriate sphere, where, if the destinies are favorably disposed, and

she becomes the mother of a son, she ever after reigns the sovereign of a little kingdom of obedient slaves.

Of the internal economy of those apartments I know nothing, except through the relations of ladies perfectly familiar with the inmates of many of them. I recollect a lady who was in the habit of visiting the twenty-three widows of Mohammed Ali, whom she declared to be the kindest, sweetest, and most delightful women she had ever known. She was herself from England, and certainly had had advantages such as might enable her properly to estimate character. Both Mrs. B. and the accomplished wife of an English physician of Alexandria occasionally called on the wife of Said Pasha, — admiral of the fleet, and heir apparent to the vice-regal throne, — who was a Circassian slave, brought up under the care of his own sister, and by her presented to his highness. They concurred in the declaration that she was the loveliest creature they ever beheld. This peerless queen of beauty is the first lady of a very grand establishment. Her apartments are as gorgeous as unlimited resources can make them; yet she is a prisoner for life, without the prospect of liberty; nor would she accept it, if it were proffered, — for where else should a great lady be? In addition to every window being latticed, to give further security, — all in the way of pomp and circumstance, — a high wall surrounds the palace, so that it is impossible for its inmate to see twenty-five feet from the window-stool. From morning to night she lounges on rich down cushions, piled in a corner, where she reclines a while, smokes a nargeeleh, and then tries another set of silk lollers, in another position. A crowd of slaves, rivalling her own matchless beauty, are perpetually watching her behest; and thus life glides away. The husband rarely enters the house once in six months. He has been known to stop in the entry, give some orders to the serv-

ants, and retire. Mrs. B. assured me that Mrs. Pasha was very miserable, longed to see her husband, and talked about him continually whenever she called, and yet confessed that she was more afraid of him than she was of death. One of her lamentations was that she had no children; and, therefore, nothing in expectancy, nothing to hope for.

A medical acquaintance was consulted, by a certain distinguished public functionary, in regard to a pain he felt in the chest, just after a hearty dinner. He was recommended to take a warm bath. The prescription struck him favorably; and he told the doctor that he would have all his women called, to administer it; observing, with a roguish expression, "I pity you poor devils, with only one wife; you don't know anything about being taken care of."

MEDICAL MEN AND DISEASES OF EGYPT.

In the course of my survey, from the shores of the Mediterranean to ancient Syene, where the tower stood mentioned by the prophet Ezekiel, although wearied with the incessant labor of exploring various ruins, besides twice crossing a section of the desert of Arabia on the back of a camel, I improved every opportunity for collecting such facts as could be relied upon in regard to medical men, and the diseases peculiar to the country.

There are three leading, dreaded endemic maladies, to control which ancient and modern physicians have exerted themselves, with very unsatisfactory success: namely, the plague, on the origin and treatment of which no two agree, any more than in the United States in regard to the cause and cure of cholera; ophthalmia, a fixture, that defies native control; and, lastly, Asiatic cholera, that goes where it listeth, independent of sanitary cordons or drugs. To me there is nothing obscure in the origin of ophthalmia, which I have investigated through

the whole Nilotic extent of Egypt. Filth gives rise to it, in most cases; it always has produced it, and always will, till the customs and habits of the Arabs and Jews — the principal sufferers — are radically reformed. But this will probably never happen; nor will the disease, in all its painful, aggravated, and often hopeless forms, cease to afflict them, while water runs from the Mountains of the Moon down the inclined plane of the valley.

Sometimes both men and women wash their faces, although it is not an habitual practice; but, in the act, whenever they do, they adroitly avoid touching their eyes with the water. At all times, the poorest division of fellahs are unstomachable objects. Washing makes them no cleaner. The margins of their eyelids look red and fretted, in the incipient form of the approaching inflammation, which makes them still more cautious about touching them with the very application they most require, — water.

An impression is propagated that the eyes should not be wet; and thus the angles are perpetually in a bad condition, especially in small children, and young infants. Swarms of flies are invariably crowding and jostling for a place at the fountain of corruption; and when they take wing, the purulent matter with which their feet are laden is transferred to the optics of others, and thus the loathsome, destructive distemper is diffused, and extensively propagated. Our dragoman, on a particular occasion, had fearful indications of an acute attack of ophthalmia, which would have been a sad affliction to myself and associates, since our intercourse with the inhabitants, and the success of our researches, depended essentially on his tongue and perfect vision. He was urged to bathe his eyes frequently in cold water, and to sleep with a pledget over them kept saturated with it. To this simple application he strenu-

ously objected, and brought up the false notion, that nobody dare apply water under such and such circumstances, which he mentioned; but I insisted, and, on the second day, it was our happiness to perceive a favorable change, and within a week he perfectly recovered. A second case came under my care, in a person officially connected with a public office, in Cairo, who had unmistakable premonition of an attack. He was urged to the same course of treatment. He, too, had his whims and prejudices to contend with; but the fear of becoming blind secured the use of water, and a speedy restoration followed.

These illustrations of the natural method of reducing an inflammation of the eyes and their appendages are introduced for the purpose of influencing future travellers to adopt, at the onset, the speediest and most effectual remedy, should they suffer from the insidious approaches of ophthalmia. When leeches — the usual preliminary course — are applied, I have observed that no reduction of inflammation follows, although the excessive pain, a sense of fulness in the ball, burning, and the disagreeable feeling of grains of sand under the lids, may subside.

The physicians of Egypt sometimes deplete very considerably; but the evidence of their poor success is found in the multitude of blind men, women and children, throughout all the nomes and provinces of that peculiar country. While sojourning in the desert, I made it a matter of special inquiry whether ophthalmia made its appearance in those arid regions. The Bedouin Arabs, those dreaded nomads, whose hand is against every man, and every man's hand against them, from their own account, are not subject to it; and they are almost invulnerable to every other disease with which human beings are ordinarily afflicted. They are thin, spare, tall, bronze-col-

ored people, with coal-black, restless eyes, full of activity and mischief. My recollections of them are vivid.

While in company with a mercantile caravan, of sixty camels, bound to Egypt, over the Hadji track, there was a rumored fear of attack on a particular evening, just after encamping, from the sand-hill Bedouins. There was prodigious commotion; and those who were armed with old horse-pistols were extremely anxious to procure powder of Mr. Warren. There were two of the Bedouins, at that moment, in the camp, quartered upon the hospitality of their more civilized brethren, who actually stood more in awe of them, from their intimate knowledge of their treacherous character, than of the courbash of the grand sultan of Turkey.

The exemption of this people from ophthalmia may perhaps be considered as opposed to my theory; for the Bedouins rarely wash, it being difficult to procure water even to meet the demands of thirst. They, however, wipe their faces, and keep the angles of the eyelids cleanly. When Europeans take the distemper, it is not unlikely that they contract it through the agency of flies, as previously described.

The slight inflammations that arise from the intense glare and reflection of the sun's rays are not to be confounded with this awful scourge, by which thousands upon thousands have been made permanently and helplessly blind. Mothers, as I have often noticed, make no effort to dislodge and drive away flies from the purulent, discharging eyes of their children.

In the bazaars, among the Jew brokers, and various other producing classes, I have gazed, with perfect astonishment and pity, too, at the clusters of insects collected on the angles of their ulcerated orbits.

Typhus fever is an annual visitant, principally confined to the cities, and sweeps off very many foreigners, among whom

Italians and English are predominant, and, therefore, severe sufferers. Dr. Farquar informed me that intermittents are extensively prevalent in Lower Egypt, of which vast numbers die. Medications, thus far, have not been particularly successful. The overflowing of the Nile leaves an immense plateau of country in a slimy condition, for months. The evaporation, under a torrid sun, modifies the atmosphere, and evidently leads to immediate derangements of the vital machinery.

Pulmonary consumption, one would naturally suppose, from the singular customs of the lower orders, would be an all-prevailing and incurable malady. Cases, however, are not numerous; and, what is worthy of special mention, comparatively rare in places where it might be supposed most frequent.

Mechanics and laborers, of all denominations, — including seamen and females, — go barefooted through life. They have apologies for shoes, occasionally; but they may generally be considered as shoeless, from infancy to age. Near the Nile, the inhabitants are semi-amphibious, being excessively fond of water, regardless of cold or crocodiles. They sleep in their one cotton garment, that is worn through the day, out of doors, on the bare earth, or in mud hovels, where there is no want of ventilation. In the coldest nights of the winter, some muster a coarse bornouse, — a garment in form analogous to the blue shirt, with the addition of a hood, — and their health is generally excellent.

Infantile diseases, embracing a long catalogue of undefined ailments, carry to an early grave immense numbers of young children. Small-pox is fearfully severe with them. Mothers invariably feed their infants on such things as they are fond of themselves; even bits of carrots are forced into their little stomachs; and thus the mortality among children is very considerably increased by the ignorance of those who have them in

charge. When they lose them, they console themselves with the hope of having more.

It is difficult to fathom the anomaly of this uniform desire; for an anomaly it is, contrasted with the dread of a numerous progeny in Christian countries. It has always been so in Egypt and the East, from the first records of humanity; and it will probably continue a national characteristic through all succeeding ages. Fatal childbirth seems hardly known. Degrading immoralities leave a mark on individuals not easily effaced. Many a nose is seen, in the narrow streets of Cairo, minus the bridge.

The lowest Turks, and all graceless Arabs who have the means for indulgence, are notoriously addicted to a vice for which Sodom and Gomorrah were consumed with fire from heaven. It is a sin without parallel in the annals of human degradation, and yet it is not recognized as a revolting, unnatural crime; even if it were, those the most infamously guilty are above the reach of any human law. There might be related, from my note-book, astounding facts, from the lips of eminent medical gentlemen, illustrative of the weight and extreme depth of these abominations of abominations; but, as Herodotus said, in speaking of certain mysteries taught him by the priests. twenty-three centuries ago, where this sentence is written, I do not feel at liberty to reveal them.

There are one or two military hospitals in Egypt, under the charge of foreign physicians and surgeons, assisted by those home-bred native Arab doctors who have been trained at the expense of the pasha.

Most of the surgery results from accidents. Tumors are scarcely seen. Amputations are rare; but couching is a common operation. Distorted limbs are seldom met with. Two cases of club-feet, only, were recognized by me, — one of which

has been already adverted to, seen in the desert; and the other was a full-grown mendicant, who invariably hobbled after us, on his hands and knees, in the Frank street of Cairo.

Cholera is a desolating scourge; but it is most terrific among the annual pilgrims to Mecca. On the route down the Nile, we fell in with some of the returning hadji, — sinners before reaching Mohammed's tomb, but saints on their return. They travelled on camels from the holy city to Keneh, on what is known as the Corsair road, and from thence floated along leisurely in boats. They gave a thrilling narrative of the devastation among the congregated thousands near the shrine of the prophet, by that angel of death, Asiatic cholera. We were in company with a returning pilgrim, on the desert, bound to Constantinople, who informed me that twenty thousand persons had died of cholera at Mecca, in the course of a few weeks, before he left. Subsequently, this intelligence was confirmed by another pilgrim, with whom we travelled, on his way to Algiers. During the influential period of Clot Bey, the medical school, raised by his personal exertions, had a reputation; but, with the death of his patron, Mohammed Ali, the sun of his greatness went down. However, besides a reputation, he obtained what every adventurer in the service of the same master had in view, a splendid fortune; and with it he made a move for belle France, on a change of administration, where he is resting upon his golden oars, and quaffing such bottles of champagne as he never drank in the palace of Shoobra. Say what enemies may of him, however, — it being fine sport to kick a dead lion, — Clot Bey was a great man for Egypt. While he was there, the true principles of surgery were taught.

Italian physicians and surgeons ought to be kicked out: a more beggarly, sycophantic set of unprincipled toadies, never breathed. Reference has been made to one of them, — Andreg,

— the pseudo-medical officer at El Arish, who did the only honest act of his life in confessing that he knew nothing of medicine.

A dirty, bare-legged fellow, in the wake of a caravan, having discovered that I was a hakem, asked assistance, on account of a bronchial inflammation. He said he had consulted the grand hakem, at El Arish, who furnished a powder, that was to act like magic; but, instead of affording relief, it had severely augmented the evil about the palate. I found the article was nothing but wood-ashes, which he directed to have blown down the throat, in large pinches, several times a day,—an operation I often witnessed. A boy laid the dose on a bit of paper, near the patient's widely-extended jaws, which was puffed into the fauces by a blast through a pipe-stem.

While making researches in this particular line, several German medical aspirants were discovered to be rising into court favor. They have possession of the medical school, and some hospitals; and, possibly, by their gentlemanly address, show of science, and apparent sympathy for the poor, they may reign in turn. Dr. Greisingen, from Keil; Dr. Reger, formerly of Tubengen; and Dr. Lantner, of Vienna, I believe to be very worthy, learned men. They lecture on different branches, in the French language, which is translated, word for word, into Arabic, for the students, who are, invariably, thick-skulled fellows, who cannot make any striking progress; consequently, Egypt will not be distinguished, very soon, by the appearance of another Albufeda, to write upon science or antiquities. Thus far, not one of these native scholars has attained a place of high professional responsibility.

Medical adventurers hover about Alexandria and Cairo, simply because there are no other places offering for a resting-place for the soles of their feet. Like Noah's dove, they leave

Europe in the strength of hope, because the profession has multiplied at home entirely beyond the demands of society.

A German hydropathist settled in Alexandria, but met with no success at all. The Arabs ridiculed the idea of curing diseases with water, an element those who resided near the Nile were perpetually dabbling in. He died, about three months before our arrival, without having gained much reputation.

After diligent inquiry, no homœopathists could be found. I have an indistinct impression that some of that order of practitioners had been in Egypt; but no sensation could have been made by a system so novel, without awakening more interest than any one manifested in it with whom we conversed.

Unless they have an appointment, the prospect must be poor indeed; for the fees are small, and the Arabs have nothing to pay with.

Those in a condition to command eminent medical attention are miserable pay-masters. They are admirable promisers. "Only cure me," is a common remark, and the best cow in the herd, a fleet courser, &c., are to be forthcoming; but they never come. No operation is performed till the piastres are counted upon the table. What is thus secured is all the surgeon will ever receive; consequently, this course is quite justifiable.

Druggists are plenty, and have the general appearance of thrift, particularly in Alexandria; their profits, however, are not from putting up prescriptions, but from the sale of fancy articles.

French medical books are most in request; but how much they are studied is another matter. No one appears to keep pace with the discoveries of the day; hence, medical periodicals are a rarity. No great ambition is shown to preserve for publication the results of medical experience.

On the eve of sailing from the United States, a letter was

received from an esteemed medical friend, Dr. Muzzey, of Cincinnati, urging me to investigate that horrible disease, leprosy, which was thoroughly attended to; and the results of my inquiries have already appeared, in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. I am unwilling, however, to deny myself the pleasure of adverting to Dr. Muzzey's widely-promulgated anathemas against tobacco, the habitual use of which, in the climate of New England, is as much objected to by myself, as by that staunch apostle of temperance in eating, drinking, and smoking. But, with all his zeal, his unquestioned philanthropy, his bold arguments, and cogent reasonings, on the injurious effects of tobacco, in Egypt he would find stumbling-blocks in the way of his honest conclusions infinitely worse to manage than a hogshead of the best Kentucky in the market. Men, from childhood, smoke incessantly. They smoke everywhere, and under all circumstances. There is no cessation; not an hour when a cloud of curling smoke is not ascending upward to the skies. It is the first and prominent civility to hand a pipe; and smoke you must, or suffer under the imputation of being no gentleman; and, were the good man of Cincinnati sitting where I am writing, he would smoke, also, as everybody is smoking about me, like a coal-pit. People live long enough, in Egypt, in all conscience, notwithstanding this everlasting smoking; for they outlive their usefulness, outlive everything but animal wants, and some of them live till everybody wishes they were dead!

I have not been an inattentive observer of the smoking mania in Germany, Holland, or other parts of continental Europe; on the contrary, a strict inquiry into the moral and constitutional evils of the habit — very appropriately called a vice — was instituted, while passing from kingdom to kingdom; and I have arrived at the gratifying conclusion, that, if

persons wish to smoke, it is not worth while to waste breath in trying to counteract it.

Another kind of smoking is practised in Egypt, quite new to us in America: namely, Indian hemp, known under the name of hasheesh. There are apartments where individuals, for a trifle, may go, and draw in the exhilarating smoke through a long pipe-stem, till a miserable, barefooted rascal is converted into an imaginary prince. In a few moments, he sees the gates of a Mohammedan paradise widely opened, for his royal entrance. He gazes wildly towards the sky, and suddenly laughs himself almost into convulsions, till all consciousness passes away, and the poor fool falls into a lethargy of considerable duration. I suspect that cigars are charged with hasheesh, and not opium, as erroneously supposed; and are made the instruments, in the hands of rogues, in London and other great cities, for the perpetration of all kinds of crimes.

A singularly pungent, unpalatable composition is chewed in the Thebiad, into which quick-lime enters largely, that burns the tongue of an unpractised amateur like a hot coal. Those addicted to the use of it have shockingly bad teeth, and a fetid breath. They say a little piece is equal to a full meal, in keeping off hunger.

From the Arabs, Jews, Abyssinians, slaves and freemen, with whom I have had intercourse, exceedingly novel facts have been collected, illustrative of the dietetic regimen in their several countries. A promulgation of them among modern physiological society reformers would sadly unhinge some of their most potent theoretical conclusions. Were they to attempt the introduction of a few of the modern glorious hobbies into Egypt, they would at once be laughed at, as impracticable fools; and, after the blush of chagrin at the absurdity of their moonshine propositions had subsided, they would laugh

themselves, at their own stupidity, meddling propensities, and narrow-minded conceptions of the elements of humanity.

CHARITIES AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

All systems of religion enjoin alms-giving. Charity is encouraged in Egypt; and the pious, in their lifetime, often make provision for the necessities of the poor. I have already alluded to the public fountains erected in Cairo and other cities by the charitable; but, of all which have come under my observation, those in the first-named place are the shabbiest, and least calculated to command admiration. As works of art, they are rude specimens of mechanical ingenuity. Sums are

appropriated by others, to be expended in hiring men to distribute water, in the streets, from skin fountains on their backs. They give it freely to whoever asks. In very warm weather,

water is a luxury incomparably superior to any other beverage; and this gives a character to the charity.

The moristan, or madhouse, may properly be noticed as a charity. It appears that, as far back as A. D. 890, Aboolgaysh Khamaraweeh built a place for the reception of lunatics; but it dwindled into insignificance, and the funds set apart for its maintenance, if there ever were any, were unquestionably taken possession of by the first sultan who wanted the property. Four hundred years later, another was erected, which, partaking of the multifarious changes this section of the world has been destined to undergo, is probably a very different institution now from what it was even a century since.

From a description given of the moristan, in some of the guide-books, a very beautiful and well-conducted establishment might be expected; but a close examination shows that it is entirely at variance with the construction of lunatic asylums in Christian countries. The lodgment of the patients, and administration of the affairs, are perfectly wretched.

On passing through a wide arch, on a public thoroughfare leading from the terminus of Frank-street, on the way to Boulac, the visiter enters a court. On the right is a kind of raised sidewalk, from which a door opens into a long passage-way. On one side of this is a range of small rooms, on the first floor, with windows, high enough to be quite above the reach of the inmates, and grated. In the centre of the doors commanding each apartment is an opening, not far from a foot square, grated with iron bars. Thus we could go from one door to the other, and, through the barred window, examine the interior of each cell.

There was no furniture whatever, and the distracted creatures confined were maniacs indeed, made worse by the severity of their incarceration. One was a negro, who was repre-

sented to have killed five men; another had done his share of mad freaks; and further along was somebody else. How they were treated could not be ascertained. They ran to a corner, and half concealed themselves in a tattered blanket, muttering, as such unfortunate beings, with the form of madness from which they were suffering, always do. Their haggard countenances, fearful, demoniac expressions, and frantic gesticulations, made it very evident that it was necessary to secure them beyond the power of doing harm to others. When or how they were fed, is unknown to me. One or two were walking about the court, who were indicated as cured.

In the second story, I was satisfied that female voices were heard; but the attendants declared there were no women there. Even on the outside, the evidence of the occupancy of apartments above those in possession of the males was very apparent. Still, the persistence in the declaration that no females were in or about the building made it certain that we could not be permitted to see them, if there were any.

The extreme jealousy with which women are guarded by Mohammedans sufficiently explains why they would not permit them to be seen in the dreadful condition to which those in the moristan were reduced.

Several men were always sitting at the court-gate, whenever we passed that way. One of them wore a sword; and, in the passage-way referred to, were several others, who appeared quite willing to have us look through the doors, but were importunate for backshiesh the moment the examination was completed. They all gathered about the one to whom a pittance was given, as though they intended to share in the gratuity.

No medical attendant was spoken of, in connection with the charity; and I am quite inclined to believe that nothing more

is done with an insane person than to shut him up out of harm's way, and wait the result. In describing the condition of the insane, in some parts of Syria, and in Constantinople, in another publication, it will be perceived that the laws of humanity are very differently administered in different countries, and that they are exceedingly modified by the religious faith of those on whom devolves their administration.

From inquiries and personal observations, insanity is not common. It is doubtful whether there are thirty in Cairo, in a population of about two hundred thousand. If the madhouse contains all there are in the city, then the number is small indeed; but, making allowance for those that may be under restraint by their families, — if such there are, — insanity bears by no means so large a proportion to the whole population as with us.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE ANCIENT RUINS.

Were it not for the gratification of inspecting the enormous collection of colossal ruins, with which Egypt abounds, there would be but little inducement to explore it in the slow and expensive manner in which a journey is necessarily conducted. There are no roads, in the sense we affix to a highway. Paths stretch off in various directions, made by camels, donkeys, and horses; but not of a permanent character. Where they border or cross a section of the deserts, they are liable to be obliterated by the first sand-storm that occurs. When sheiks, and others who contract to carry persons to particular points, speak of roads, they simply mean the common route between any given places.

In going to any specified locality, east or west of the Nile, beyond the arable land, the success of the jaunt exclusively depends on the judgment, tact and familiarity of the guide with

the position of certain stars, bearings of rocks and sand-hills, when he last passed, the tracks of camels last over the ground, and an occasional brackish well of water. The Nile is the main highway through the country: whoever ascends or descends it sees nearly all there is to be observed of the towns and hamlets, unless he lands expressly to measure the length and breadth of mosques, dove-cotes, and such flimsy buildings as have been raised within the last fifty years.

There are no houses of entertainment, — no stopping-places, after leaving the cities, where there are decent, comfortable, or even secure accommodations. The traveller hires a boat, and it becomes his house. Whatever is necessary for daily consumption must be carried. Beds, pans, pots, fuel, tea, coffee, sugar, — indeed, every edible is put on board, — together with a cook, into the bargain; and a regular family housekeeping is commenced when the boat departs either from Damietta, Rosetta, Alexandria or Cairo, for an up-river voyage. The flag of the country from whence the individual came is raised on a staff at the stern; and thus equipped, all researches above the capital are uniformly commenced.

Vast as the ruins of Egypt are, and grand beyond the conception of those who have not wandered through them, they indicate but a faint outline of what they must have been when in the acme of their architectural glory. Although successive conquerors, through the long period of over three thousand years, have each done something to deface and destroy the noblest works of art, the massiveness of the temples and the towering majesty of the pyramids have set their efforts at defiance; and there they all are, where they were abandoned by a people who reared and protected them against foreign aggression, till no longer able to maintain their ground; and there they are likely to remain a thousand years longer, the monu-

ments of the ingenuity — perhaps piety — and extraordinary mechanical resources of the ancient Egyptians. It is true that the outside layers of the pyramids of Geezeh are slowly decomposing; but so very gradually, that no calculation can be made upon their probable duration. While the crust of the earth remains as it is, Cheops will be a wonder. Nor is there any reason for supposing the second and third pyramids may not be equally lasting.

No more desperate efforts are likely to be commenced for prostrating them; and they are too far from the capital, and transportation would be both too tedious and too expensive, to warrant the idea that any of the stone may be removed, for building purposes, to Cairo. There are no fears, therefore, of further depredations from that source; and, before that city increases, it is quite probable that the seat of government may be transferred to Alexandria.

The commercial advantages of the last-named city, its facilities for local business in its generously wide streets, and from the increase and concentration of wealth there, — which, mighty as it is in Christendom, is really a greater power in Egypt, — give increasing indications of such a destiny.

It is not reasonable to suppose that any town, city or works, may spring into existence on the border of the forsaken, forbidding desert of Libya, to pull down those gigantic monuments.

The last visit I made to the pyramids was with Mr. Warren. We recollected some circumstances that demanded further examination, to give us a right understanding of the masonry; and therefore took donkeys, by daylight, which had been engaged over night, and, much to our surprise, discovered, before reaching the ferry at Old Cairo, where the river is crossed to proceed to Geezeh, that only one driver was with us.

Having been there before, a guide was not absolutely required; and thus we trotted on. On arriving at a little mud and palm village, within a mile of the Sphinx, there was a full canal, very unusually wide, that must necessarily be crossed. The Arabs came in squads, insisting upon the necessity of carrying us over on their shoulders, — it being dangerous, if not impracticable, to stick to the backs of the animals, which were too light and small to swim with us in that position. Consequently, we mounted them, and the donkeys were led over.

It was plain enough that there was no such depth of water as represented, for the animals, at no part of the passage, appeared to swim. In a fatiguing walk up to the entrance of the opening into the north side of the pyramid of Cheops, the rabble followed us, — half-naked, savage, importunate, supple dogs, — and each one insisted upon being our guide to the interior. Such was the confusion, in connection with a desire to rid ourselves of annoyance, we refused to have any of them, thus avoiding all complaint of partiality.

That decision, however, did not calm the strife of ambition for a job. But we were resolute and determined, and told them to keep their distance at their peril. At the very entrance sat the sheik of the village, a hard-featured fellow, who felt the weight of office. He demanded four shillings for permission to go in. He was asked if he owned the pyramids, and who authorized him to take toll in that exorbitant manner. We told him plainly that we should not pay him a farthing, should not take a guide, and he might stop us if he dared. He instantly remarked that we had no light, and therefore could see nothing. Upon that, each lighted a candle, brought for the purpose, and proceeded. Neither of us had arms of any kind, — not even a walking-stick or riding-whip, — but, nevertheless, we

resolutely rushed down the inclined plane, dark, steep, and difficult. The group of bronzed Arabs looked after us with perfect amazement, their black eyes sparkling with the restless brightness of a boa constrictor's. On reaching the bottom, where an ascent was next to be made, — a fearfully dark and dismal place, still, hot and dirty, — one of the dozen or two at the mouth came sliding down, and caught me by the arm, saying he would show us. We were thankful to have him; but it would not have been consistent to have gone back and solicited assistance, after the stand taken.

We went from one strange place to another; and, in the end, reached the famous apartments called the king and queen's chambers. They were cased with very large slabs of polished granite, jointed with an exactness that made it difficult to find the seams. When it is recollected that the base of this pyramid covers five hundred and seventy-one thousand five hundred and thirty-six square feet of ground, and that we were obliged to grope the way by candle-light up and down, and through gyrating passages, to the centre, some idea may be formed of the extent of our undertaking. Its present height is four hundred and sixty feet, nine inches.

When satisfied, the candles being nearly exhausted, we made our exit into the midst of those left at the mouth on plunging in. The sheik again demanded four shillings, as his rightful due. They entertained an expectation of fleecing us at the canal, imagining it would be quite impossible to proceed without their assistance. I led off a little donkey, — quite regardless of their asseverations that it was mooshtibe, and that we should be in the water over the backs of the short-legged beasts, — well knowing that a swim of a few rods, in a hot day, would be no difficult feat or unpleasant exercise. As on the other occasion, we triumphed, and came out in excellent

condition, without a wet thread, on the opposite side, to their apparent confusion.

It was not the payment of a reasonable fee that was objected to, but the unreasonable demand of backshiesh, in which each one was contending for a slice, that induced us to resist, and insist upon going on our own responsibility; and, having once assumed an independent, nonchalant air, it would not do to swerve from it with Arabs.

When we came down to the village, opposite the ford, to Old Cairo, the streets were lined with women, sitting promiscuously about, by hundreds, crying and wailing, in great distress. They had mud on their faces, on their bosoms, and front of their dress, and some spattered their cheeks with blue dye; and they all presented an extraordinary spectacle, entirely new and unexpected. On inquiry, we were informed that there had been a fair, which all the villagers had attended; and, in the midst of their enjoyments, the pasha's soldiers rushed upon them, and secured all the young men for the army. Thus sons, husbands and brothers, were entrapped, without expectation of ever being liberated. They were shut up in a yard near by, and strictly guarded. I never witnessed stronger evidences of poignant grief, or had cognizance of a more despotic measure. Their crops, families, and everything else dear to the entrapped men, were ever after hopelessly beyond their reach. There was a rumored difficulty between the pasha and the sultan of Turkey, and this was a precautionary step towards increasing the Egyptian forces.

While groping and feeling, inch by inch, in some parts of the pyramid, — a description of which would be quite absurd, since there is no end to the tedious minuteness bestowed upon each angle and niche by travellers, — I felt a conviction, as I

still do, that the mystery of its internal construction has not yet been discovered.

Colonel Vyse and others have, indeed, been laborious in their attempts to explain and expose the whole. The chambers are, in my humble estimation, nothing more than puzzles or lures, purposely introduced by the arch contrivers of these fabrics, anticipatory of the curiosity that would naturally enough be excited, in after ages of the world's history, to fathom the object of their erection. According to Herodotus, — who may be read with profit, and who is still a model guide, although he preceded us all, in his explorations, by two thousand three hundred years, — the real beauties, the astounding wonders, and all that is truly calculated to astonish mankind, are still concealed beneath a mountain of quarried stone.

The opportunity is better now than at any previous time for new researches; and I have confidence in the opinion that something will yet be brought to light, from the secret archives somewhere under the pyramid of Cheops, which will invest the history of Egypt with a new interest, and perhaps furnish far more important materials than have yet come down through the broken chain of tradition, monumental hieroglyphical inscriptions, imperfectly deciphered, and fragmentary scraps of Manetho, to illustrate an earlier condition of the human race than has yet reached us through any other channel than the Mosaic writings.

The care bestowed in the finishing of the exterior of the second, or pyramid of Cephrinus, is equally indicative of the importance attached to it. To remain contented with the old theory, that all the pyramids were simply tombs for the individuals in whose reigns they were built, is not at all satisfactory. It is not questioned that the royal remains of the august monarchs who furnished men and materials for the accomplish-

ment of such very surprising achievements may have been deposited in them. But, if Herodotus is to be credited, — and his veracity should not be questioned till he has been proved in error, — the sepulchre of Cheops has not yet been discovered. He even gives a description of a communication, by means of a canal, between the interior of the pyramid and the Nile, which has not yet been found. If there is an island in the centre, below, crowned by a monument, over four hundred feet high, on which rests the sarcophagus containing the king's body, it has not been disturbed, and the discovery still awaits the persevering industry of a future Belzoni. In their immediate vicinity there are ranges of tombs, that were elaborately and skilfully made, the masonry of which quite overtops the very best specimens extant in these days, with all our advances in the arts of building. The sand has crept in, and filled them full, concealing hundreds, perhaps, that are unimpaired, and which are hermetically sealed, as it were, from the prying hands of the ignorant, demi-civilized wretches who inhabit that region, to surprise and enlighten mankind by the treasures of knowledge that will emanate from them hereafter.

If the sand were carted off to the plain below, or a temporary rail-track laid, to facilitate excavations, the world would be roused to a high feeling of enthusiasm by the developments that would be made. Those were not periods of barbarism, when the sepulchres, the great cities, the temples and the pyramids, were reared. Had they all been swept away, and one stone of them no longer remained upon another, but, in their stead, a minute description of their magnitude, the sculptures, raised figures, massive columns, the red polished monoliths covered with characters, and other things, equally singular, but true, the history would no more have been credited than the stories of the Arabian Nights. The edifices them-

selves, which were the themes of admiration three thousand years ago, have been preserved, and they surpass — yes, far surpass — the most vivid descriptions that were ever given of them. Therefore we have the evidence of our own senses, that the people who lived when these monuments of human ambition and mechanical adroitness were brought into form surpassed ourselves in architecture. We have neither the skill, patience nor means, with all our science, national resources, or constructiveness, to equal them in this department of energy and creative determination; and if their wisdom and capacity were so great in this direction, it is but fair to suppose that they could not have come far short of our present civilization in most others.

There is no limitation to a discussion of this character. The works of those people give conclusive evidence of their power and skill; and I have entire confidence in the belief that more is to be known about them hereafter. The sand's insidious approach to the threshold of the beautiful temples of Abydos and Dendera, deplored as it may have been, and still is, has perhaps been ordered for the very purpose of preserving them and their more precious contents. These might be exposed, at no great cost; and, whenever that is done, it would not be difficult to restore the lost stones, to replace those thrown down, and then, but not before, shall we know where those secret passages lead that are made visible at one extremity. Under the heavy stone floors there may be deep, strong vaults, and stone boxes, filled with sacred parchments and treatises, of infinite value to literature.

One reason why those and all the other temples of Egypt have been able to resist the wear and war of ages is because the stones of which they were formed were of great size, and each end was finished. There was neither coating nor paint-

ing on the outside, nor lathing, plastering or coloring within. There was a solid stone wall, rarely less than two feet, and, generally, three feet in thickness. All the joinings were admirable,—almost a glue joint; and, to prevent the stones from being displaced by violence, they were curiously dove-tailed together by wooden ties, which have lasted to this day. Had they been of iron, they would have been destroyed by oxydation; if of bronze or copper, their number and value might have led to depredations, for the sake of the metal; but wood was subject to no such contingencies, and has proved equally useful, and more indestructible, than anything else that might have been employed for the purpose.

When the walls were all up, and the roof securely on,—which last was made of immensely heavy blocks of sandstone,—the workmen began to dress them, on both surfaces. This is inferred from the circumstance that several of the great structures were left incomplete; the chalk marks of the designer are still fresh, and as distinct as though drawn but a week ago. The rough chisel-cuttings, too, are recognized on cornices, on chapiters, friezes, and other prominent parts of the imperfect edifices. By proceeding in that manner, raised figures could be left on the face of the stone; and it was in that way, beyond all question, all those masterly reliefs were produced. The sculptor, with his delicate tools, followed, closely and unerringly, the designs of the artist.

All the great columns at Karnak, Luxor, and Thebes, appear to have been simply piled up, block upon block, perpendicularly, beautifully joined, so that the line of contact is scarcely perceptible. The workmen, on suspended stagings, carried on the dressing, from top to bottom, patiently, but in exact accordance with the instruction they had received from those who were

solicitous to preserve and transmit an exact and truthful record of whatever was considered essential to future generations.

Battle scenes, an exhibition of a fleet, and the lofty bearing of the monarch, were displayed on the outer walls of the temples, where a sight of them would recall the majesty and prowess of the sovereign, and enthusiasm for the defence of the country; while, on the inside, on the holy of holies, the ceiling, overhead, in all apartments where the people were permitted, on great solemnities, to have a glimpse of the interior of sacred edifices, the portraits of the gods of Egypt, in the discharge of the high functions of their supreme offices, were exclusively exhibited.

It is evident that every kind of pictorial illustration of this kind — and they are numerous beyond expression — was executed after the walls and pillars were completely in place. Had the designs been finished at the quarries, or other places, before the stones were raised, the beautiful and elaborately cut figures would have been marred in thousands of instances, and pitifully mutilated in all of them.

There is a mechanical stiffness and severity in the drawings, that shows a strict adherence to an arbitrary system of symbolic expressions. When the ancient artists chose to exercise a freedom conformable to nature, they were unequalled for the ability displayed. Thus, in the gymnastic scenes in one of the tombs of Beni Hassan, it is plain that the artist was not compelled to follow any guide, but gave his own taste and judgment full play. But, on turning to the sacred enclosures, the temples where the mysteries of religion and religious rites were celebrated, the reliefs are stiff and formal. The great, unmeaning, unsymmetrical eye is invariably the same. Horus looks fiercely upon mortals, as he does upon his beatific associates in the realms of bliss. All the symbolical and hiero-

glyphical cuttings were not made in any one year or dynasty, but were carried on through a succession of reigns, for more than two thousand years, down to the epoch of the Ptolemies; and public edifices were always being erected, through every reign; and, however modified the government might have been, in that long succession of ages, the sacred written character appears to have always been precisely and unalterably the same. Whatever came within the care of the ancient priesthood — a learned, subtle body of prelates, who stood upon the shoulders of the people, and made religion the engine of an uncompromising despotism — was very systematically conducted; and hence the uniformity and purity of the symbolical literature, which we so faintly appreciate.

With a thousand dollars, judiciously expended, the principal temple of Abydos might be completely exposed to view; and, I doubt not, the discovery of works of art, and, perhaps, documents, of which no tradition is extant, would be secured, that would explain many difficult problems in regard to the early state of civilization in Egypt. The temple of Dendera was cleared out inside by the mandate of Mohammed Ali. Its grandeur the magnitude of its pillars, adytum, and the imposing effect of its beautiful proportions, are, in the highest degree, surprising. Collateral ruins, buried entirely, might yield trophies of equal value to literature; but nothing has yet been accomplished towards ascertaining their internal condition. Within, all the buried temples are filled up with immense quantities of broken brick, and irregular stones, of one or two pounds in weight. Sometimes a heavy piece of hewn granite, or a fragment of white marble, intermingled with broken pottery, and light, porous dust, is found among the filling. Where such quantities of brick came from, is a perplexing question. They must have been brought there, and thrown in, with

immense labor; while, on the outside, the sand from the desert has accumulated round them, and actually covered them over, and the sand level, in all directions, has been uniformly raised.

At Edfou, the principal temple was as rich and magnificent as art and the resources of the king and priests could make it. That might be cleared, also, and be one of the most perfect of any in Egypt. The columns — the chapiters of which are partially exposed, by the activity of strangers, who have dug away some of the foul accumulations — exhibit an artistical perfection that would be difficult to imitate in these latter days, with the aid of all the powers, processes and appliances, we possess in the arts. That temple, from its mural protection, I imagine to have been a holy fortress, in which the priests were secure, and beyond the reach of civil commotions of the people. Before powder took the place of slings, bows, arrows and battering-rams, this must have been a formidable habitation for the old managers of the political religion of the state. It may have also been a collegiate institution; and, from the security with which it was guarded, has induced me to hope for the finding of more remains than in some others of less apparent importance.

Thebes offers fewer prospects than any other of the great ruins, because its former eminence and wealth made it an inviting object for spoliations by the Persian invaders, under Cambyses, and those who imitated his destructive policy at later periods. More tombs in the mountain necropolis are in reservation, to reward the discoverer with a harvest of fresh objects, and illustrations of Egypt in its infancy and glory. Luxor is partially buried; but the prospect is not good there for excavations, because it was sacked and pillaged by the sacrilegious hands that destroyed the beauty of Thebes and the

majesty of Karnak. Possibly, in the ruins of the latter, — which must have excelled all other structures in Egypt, both in extent and opulence, — the priests, in their consternation at the approach of the dreaded invaders, may have concealed many of their sacred implements and manuscripts, which are yet to be brought up, for the edification of the literati in the last ages of the world.

Philæ is a cluster of ruins which it would be a pity to disturb, for a removal of the corner-stones, or base of columns, where researches would naturally be directed, would destroy all there now is of interest on the island. The island of Elephantine might yield a compensation, should an exploration be attempted. As there is nothing left to be destroyed, the business of hunting for concealed vaults would consist in rolling huge blocks of granite from one position to another. Whether it was a priestly residence, has not been determined.

From the great burial-fields, much may be expected by future researches. The Arabs, in their incessant greediness for buried property, are making shocking havoc with the mummy-pits at Sakkara and Thebes, and I know not how many other places; and they have, beyond a doubt, often fallen upon real treasures to the antiquarian, of the value of which they knew nothing at all, and therefore cast away as useless.

Uniform surprise is manifested, by those who visit the ruins of Egypt, that more remains of great cities do not exist. There were palaces for kings, and establishments for noblemen of the courts; but not a wing of a palace remains, — no, not a single relic of a superior kind of dwelling for private individuals. I fully believe there never were, in any age of Egypt, any better dwellings than are now to be seen. Mud was the magazine from which the mass of the inhabitants drew to build their houses, as at present; and their decay explains, in part, the

gradual rise of all the mounds from small beginnings. There may have been some brick structures in the immediate vicinage of a few temples; there is no other way of accounting for the presence of brick. Wood was always scarce, even in the mummy-making ages, — an inference based upon the fact that all the mummy-cases were actually manufactured of small pieces of wood, dovetailed together. Foreign commerce might have supplied some timber; but it was never introduced into the building of any of the temples. One generation, doubtless, followed the general customs of the preceding, building of mud, and other cheap, perishable materials; and the modern houses of the fellahs are very analogous to those that have stood on the same ground in all past times.

PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT.

The last subject for consideration, in the foregoing connection, is the political condition of Egypt at the termination of my investigations.

Although Egypt is, nominally, a fief of the Turkish empire, yet it is really independent of it; and the entire machinery of the government, and the resources and lives and property of the inhabitants, are under the exclusive control of a single individual, Abbas Pasha. He is the grandson of Mohammed Ali. By the stipulation of the European nations, Egypt is to be governed by his descendants just so long as an annual tribute is regularly paid into the treasury of the Sublime Porte, at Constantinople.

The revenues, by land tax, capitation tax, and on imports at the custom-house, are assumed to be about fifteen millions of dollars, annually; but there are no data for determining, with much exactness, the income of the government. Assuming the revenue at that sum, such is the shameful practice of extortion,

by the subordinates of the pasha, who collect it, that it may safely be calculated that they contrive to sponge out of the people all of another million, which is variously divided among themselves.

Abbas Pasha is represented to be an indolent man, short, fat, lethargic, and given to the pursuit of pleasure. He is further reputed to be a bigoted Moslem, a believer in the deadly influences of the evil eye, and under the dominion of whims entirely beneath a common intelligence. He is good-looking, and has an amiable expression, when not heated by passion. His great ambition is to have beautiful horses, and a multitude of palaces. Even far out in the desert, on the route to Suez, he has a famous lounging-place; and loves to converse, it is said, about the pure air and its invigorating properties, in that sandy locality.

A gentleman related of him the following circumstance, which is said to have occurred the year before our arrival. A trusty groom had the care, at his highness' favorite desert station, of several very splendid Arab steeds, of which he was excessively fond. One day, the pasha arrived there from Cairo, and had just got into a comfortable position, to look from a window, when he saw some overland passengers bound to India, who had come on in the company's van, at station number eight. While they were waiting for a change of animals, they were also admiring his bloods. To allow this, was an unpardonable offence upon the part of the groom, which was aggravated by the fact of his riding back and forward, that the gentlemen might have a full opportunity to appreciate their merit. The blood of the pasha boiled with a rage he had hardly the power to control, and he called down imprecations upon the head of the abandoned wretch who dared to permit the evil eye of Englishmen to rest upon his priceless stud.

One of his suite, familiar with the temper, as well as the bigotry, of his imperial master, ran, as quickly as possible, to the innocent cause of this tempest of passion, and told him to run for his life, if he would escape the vengeance of his infuriated master. Leaping from the back of a horse, the frightened fellow instantly fled into the pathless desert, which offered the only prospect of security.

Happily, a caravan picked him up; and, after a long journey, he reached some part of Syria, not recollected, where he still remained, when this relation was given. The pasha sent out for the poor vassal, at the acme of his wrath, as anticipated; and, when disappointed of the satisfaction of crushing him with a blow of his might, as he intended, the fury of his vice-regal rage became intensely terrific.

While the stipulated number of purses are punctually remitted to his master in Turkey, Abbas Pasha will, no doubt, be sustained by his European friends, who have guaranteed the integrity of the present order of things; but a growing misunderstanding has been some time fermenting, and intimations are frequently given of a threatened rupture between the high controlling parties.

The next heir to the throne is Saïd Pasha, admiral of the fleet, who has some excellent traits of character, being good-natured, and more liberal than the pasha in his religious and political views. Beyond him is a young lad, — the last child born to Mohammed Ali, in his extreme old age, — a bright, intelligent boy, somewhere near thirteen years of age. To him the public attention has been somewhat directed, with an expectation that the government may, finally, fall to his care.

Ibrahim Pasha — the general, who certainly would have subverted the Ottoman throne, had his projects not been counteracted by the diplomacy of Europe, united to preserve the Turk-

ish empire — left three sons, before alluded to, who display energy and tact in business. They are manufacturers of sugar, on the Upper Nile; and, being better educated than most natives, they may hereafter play an important part in the political changes that await this doomed country.

There is no scheme for bettering, elevating and enriching Egypt, that did not originate with Mohammed Ali. But all the old hero's plans for developing its resources, and civilizing the diverse races brought under his rule by conquest, are neglected by his grandson. Domestic economy is not encouraged; the manufacturing establishments are falling into decay, and some of the costly machinery, made in France, is now rusting, out of doors, on the banks of the river. In short, there is nothing doing that was commenced towards elevating modern Egypt to a position of national respectability. Every department of the government has deteriorated since the death of the extraordinary genius who raised them from nothing into an orderly state of activity.

There is vastly more freedom, and less embarrassment thrown in the way of the traveller, than in continental Europe. England is free as air, and next to it is Egypt; and simply because British influence is exerted there for the protection and security of life and property. No such provoking annoyances and obstacles to progress are presented there as embarrass the traveller in the papal states generally, and the kingdom of Naples, — two of the most contemptible governments recognized in the catalogue of nations. Both of them are a disgrace to Christendom. They are so palpably bad, that even the few seeds of freedom sown there, and watered by the blood shed in the late unsuccessful revolutions, will germinate, and upheave and overturn them; for they are a mockery, — the grossest violations of the laws of civilization.

Yet all this security in Egypt was brought about, by Mohammed Ali, from the most diverse and discordant materials, the echo of whose name among the ruins of his country, from Cleopatra's Needle to the waving palms of central Africa, and over the unsurveyed deserts where Ishmaelites roam for plunder, continues to inspire more terror, in those who entertain no respect for order or law, than the forces at the disposal of all the despots on the globe.

Mohammed Ali was sometimes cruel, reckless of human life, and a tyrant. When he had overcome the Mamelukes, who were plotting for his destruction, and whom he was justified in securing, by the first law, — that of self-preservation, — he turned his attention to the arts that belong to peace; but his desires were thwarted, and he was compelled to warfare. It is not my province to discuss his policy, or animadvert on his sins. He was a great man, a statesman of enlarged views, who, with nothing but the indomitable energy of his nature, — without fortune, patrons, or the assistance of allies, — founded a kingdom, and transmitted it to his posterity. The disadvantages against which he was obliged to contend would have been insurmountable to any other person, placed under the pressure of similar circumstances. Among other accusations, he has been charged with despoiling the ruins of Egypt; but the assaults made upon those monuments, in the name of science, by the notorious Dr. Lepsius, have been far more productive of evil than those of Mohammed Ali.

Mohammed Ali could neither read nor write; and, to the day of his death, knew no other language than his mother tongue. How was it possible, without education, without even a knowledge of the character of those splendid monuments, he could have appreciated their intrinsic value, as they are estimated by the scholar, or a student in the lore of archæology?

By his orders, a few unimportant structures were destroyed, for the purpose of rearing edifices which were to be of practical utility. He knew not their importance, and desisted from further depredations when his mind had been enlightened in regard to them. It has been the custom of English tourists, and certainly a policy of English officials, to abuse, without stint or hesitancy, the memory of that extraordinary man. He commenced with nothing, and died an emperor in exploits; the whole world, at one period, rang with his name. What was Egypt, when he undertook those moral and domestic revolutions which have made it what it is, but a vast den of thieves, robbers, brigands and murderers? It was a series of petty sovereignties, or, rather, despotisms, under the military sway of infamous marauding chieftains, who neither acknowledged the rights of Christians, Mohammed, or the devil, although serving the two latter with untiring vigor. My opinions are radically changed in relation to the character and historical claims of Mohammed Ali, whose destiny would have been a divan in Constantinople, had it not been for the interference of the dominant powers of Europe.

Egypt is a problem; what awaits it in the future it is difficult to predict. I have but a faint expectation that Abbas Pasha will remain many years in quiet possession of a country that is at his individual mercy, without an obligation to render an account of his administration to a superior, or to the people, whom his minions are grinding to the dust. How the revenues are disbursed no one presumes to inquire; or upon what principle taxation is made is equally a puzzle, beyond the ken of civilized politicians. How long the present order of things will remain is questionable, since it is well known that the elements of discord are operating between the viceroy and the Sublime Porte; and it is equally beyond the sagacity of those

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